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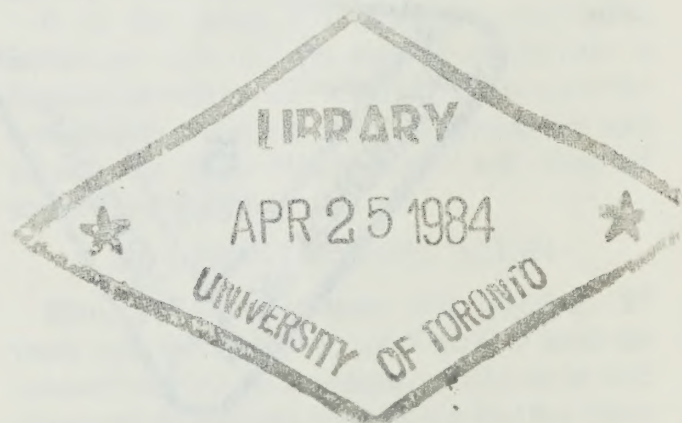
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, April 13, 1984

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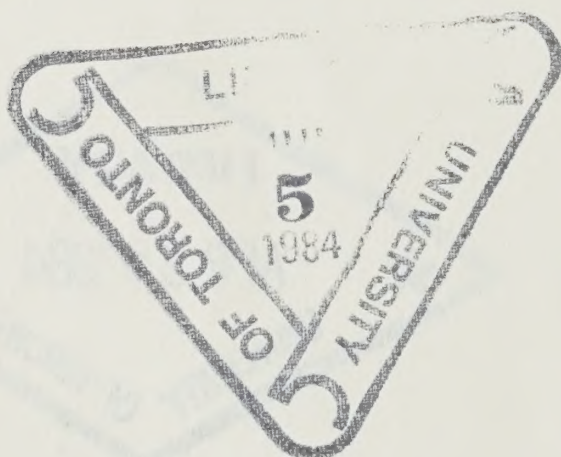


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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 13, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PRIVACY RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, as the minister responsible for privacy and access initiatives, I am pleased to announce to the Legislature that this spring Ontario will be hosting an Interprovincial Conference on Privacy and Computers from May 22 to May 25.

During the last decade, as computer technology has advanced, concern for personal privacy has surfaced as one of the leading issues faced by citizens of modern industrial societies. In this respect, the primary focus of the conference will be on the protection of personal information contained in automated data banks by both the public and private sectors.

The conference will be attended by noted authorities from the private and public sectors. It is my firm belief that not only is it appropriate to encourage input from the private sector, but it is also vital in order that we as a government may address these concerns in a responsible and comprehensive manner.

The importance of developing a uniform approach to this growing issue becomes readily apparent when one realizes that information gathered about an individual may be stored and actually used in another province or country.

As members know, it is generally held that individual rights, including privacy rights, are not within the exclusive jurisdiction of either the federal or provincial level of government. As provinces do have jurisdictions governing property and civil rights, I believe we have an ideal opportunity to establish a mechanism that will protect the privacy of individuals whose personal information is retained and not unduly interfere with the daily operations of the private sector.

To date, the response to the conference has been most encouraging, with more than 100 participants having been confirmed. Representation has been broad as well, with confirmations steadily coming in from medical, banking and business communities across Canada and internationally. Many special interest groups, includ-

ing the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Canadian Cable Television Association, have also been included.

Essentially, the conference will consist of two parts. The first part, from May 22 to the morning of May 24, will be a symposium to discuss the issues of privacy in the public and private sectors with a special focus on the electronic data area. This would be attended primarily by private and government officials.

The second part, from the afternoon of Thursday, May 24, to the morning of May 25, will be a ministerial meeting that will include ministers with an interest in the privacy area from all the provinces and territories across the country.

By way of this statement, I would like to extend an invitation to the members of this assembly to attend the symposium. Members of the media are also welcome.

It is my hope that through consultative initiatives such as this privacy conference a foundation will be laid to enable a process to be established—a process that will recognize and balance the rights of individuals with those of society and government.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago the University of Waterloo took the innovative idea of co-operative education and pioneered an educational program that has come to be recognized as a vital feature of that university today. The University of Waterloo conducts the largest co-operative program in Canada and the second largest in the world.

More than 8,000 students and thousands of employers throughout Canada and elsewhere are involved in this successful program, which has brought about a close relationship between the university and the industrial community.

Computer research at the University of Waterloo dates back to its very beginnings. In 1964 the university developed WATFOR, which was considered a major breakthrough in programming language research at the time. This was quickly followed by other successes through the 1960s and 1970s in software development and computer networking, including such recent

developments as microNET and JAnet. The university's developed software is used today under licence by more than 3,000 users worldwide.

Recently, the university brought together several first-class computer research groups, created over the last 10 years, into a single organization known as the Institute for Computer Research. The establishment of the institute marks yet another milestone in the university's continuing commitment to scientific excellence and the promotion of a healthy research environment in this province and this country.

The university's dedication to excellence in teaching and research in computer science and engineering, as well as co-operative education, has been well received and supported by commerce and industry.

Numerous advanced technology companies, such as NCR Canada, Raytheon, Electrohome, Allen-Bradley, etc., which are located in the geographic region, have benefited from the industry-university partnership approach to the advancement of education, research and technology transfer.

10:10 a.m.

Only this week Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Ltd. announced that an option to purchase 25 acres of land has been obtained on the north campus of the University of Waterloo. The company plans to make the land the long-term location for the future expansion and development of Panacom operation, now located in Scarborough. Hewlett-Packard has said that proximity to a major university was "one of the factors" in the decision to obtain an option on land in Waterloo.

The University of Waterloo has served this province very well. I am pleased to announce today, in the presence of my colleagues in the Legislature and the representatives of the University of Waterloo who are in the gallery, the government's support for this industry-university partnership. Over the next four years the government will provide capital assistance of up to \$31.1 million to the University of Waterloo towards the construction and alteration of facilities for the Institute for Computer Research.

In partnership with the government, the University of Waterloo will provide funding for this project through its own fund-raising activities. Under the chairmanship of Mr. John Trevor Eyton, president and chief executive officer of Brascan Ltd., Watfund, the university's fund-raising drive, has been most successful. I am

pleased to note that the university has undertaken to assume the balance of the cost of this project.

The project will provide space for research and teaching activities in many areas of computer science as well as several branches of engineering which have resulted from the widespread use of computers. In addition, the facilities will provide space for specialists from industry to work alongside university researchers. The close collaboration between the university and industry provides a most effective method for technology transfer to industry and a mechanism for the university to maintain relevance in the research and teaching of computers and their applications.

I am also delighted to announce that this joint venture between the government of Ontario and the University of Waterloo in providing facilities for intellectual synergy will result in the creation of an estimated 1,160 jobs of an average duration of 12 weeks over the next four years.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities regarding her strange policies with respect to admissions to community colleges and the capacity of community colleges to respond to the need for trained workers and the applications coming to them.

I put to her the specific case of Robert Tereshyn of Niagara College, who was very upset with the minister's remarks in this House on March 27 with respect to the admissions to the community colleges. He could not get into the law and security administration program at Niagara last fall, so he enrolled in a generalist program, taking courses he was advised would be of benefit to getting into the program at some later date. He was rejected again. When we spoke to the counselling people at Niagara, we learned there were 250 applications for some 50 seats in that program.

Is the minister persuaded now of the truth of a number of reports she has had access to but not shared with other people that there are many students in Ontario going without spots in community colleges, even though she knew of the demand, because the ministry has failed to respond to that demand?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is utterly ludicrous to suggest that the ministry has failed to respond or that the colleges have failed to respond to the increased demand for places. It is absolutely true that many students may not achieve admission to the course or program of

their first choice within the college system. That is true in any post-secondary system anywhere in the world.

The numbers the honourable member publicized regarding the rejection of students or the inability of students are not accurate because we have not had complete information about the multiplicity of applications made by many students to many programs and many colleges. If we deduct those multiple applications from the total, the number is reduced by about 90 per cent.

Indeed, there are probably some students who have not managed to gain admission to colleges on their first try. In most instances those students may have achieved admission on their second try, but not necessarily, however, to the course of their first choice within the college of their first choice. Many of those students who have been aggressive and imaginative about the ways in which they could complete their educational programs have applied to appropriate parallel courses and have achieved the educational base they feel they need.

We have worked diligently to expand the capacity of the college system to meet the increasing demand, but I would remind the honourable member that this is not the only study that has been done. A very valid and scientifically accurate study was carried out by Professor Foote regarding the projections for community college admissions in 1980 and 1981, which demonstrated clearly that in his mind by the year 1985 a significant number of colleges would be looking at a reduction in admission numbers of the order of 20 to 25 per cent. That is the other side of the coin, which the honourable member never fails to ignore in all his arguments.

Mr. Peterson: I guess what the minister has told us is that she just does not know the status.

Let me refer the minister to another secret report she would not share with our researchers or with the library. This is a report of September 1983 called Student Applications to Full-Time Post-Secondary Programs at the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology: Patterns, Issues and Implications. In that report the following assertion is made: "Large numbers of potential students who are likely qualified for admission are not being admitted to quota programs, to certain small or specialized programs and to certain large-demand, high-technology programs."

How much evidence does the minister need, how many secret reports does she need before she is apprised of the fact that there is a major problem in meeting the demand for students as

well as the demand for trained technological people in the work force?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The information we have developed and the research we have carried out or have helped to sponsor would demonstrate that the opinion expressed in a number of papers that the honourable member has obviously looked at may or may not be as valid as he suggests it is. It is my responsibility to ensure at this time, during the most vigorous, increased rate of participation at the post-secondary level, in which Ontario has now reached the zenith of second in the world with respect to post-secondary institutional participation, that we attempt to meet the requirements of the students.

Mr. Breithaupt: Who is better? Is anybody better?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The United States has a greater rate of participation. It is the only other country in the western world or the only other jurisdiction that has, and that is factual.

We will continue to strive to meet those needs. But the admission of qualified students is a matter of very real concern to us and it is a matter that has preoccupied us, with successful outcomes in almost all areas.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, the minister may speak grandly about being at the zenith of something or other. That, of course, does not answer the problems of this House as to the quality of what is going on and the kind of training that is happening inside those institutions.

Putting that to one side as another issue, I would like to remind the minister that Mr. Williams, the chairman of the Ontario Council of Regents for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, speaking a year ago about the incredible shortage of space in the college system, said in some desperation that we are using elementary schools and church basements and taking extraordinary measures to try to cope with the crush.

When the minister fools us with all these references to multiple registrations and the problem of deducting them all, that has already happened. In fact, when we asked both the colleges and the ministry statistical branch in this respect last fall—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: —to provide us with information, the response was the following: In the metropolitan commuting area, which was so crucial to the pressure, the increase in enrolments on a

first-choice basis only was 17.9 per cent and the acceptances were only 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: You do have a question, I presume?

Mr. Allen: When is the minister going to face up to the problem of shortages facing young people going into that sector of post-secondary education and deliver the goods in that respect in terms of space and adequate facilities to cope with them?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has apparently failed to recognize that in a number of the limited-enrolment courses there were very good reasons for limited enrolment. The primary reason is the opportunity for employment for the graduate from that program. This is a factor that is considered very seriously by the program advisory committees in all the institutions.

But the member has just noted how aggressive and imaginative the whole college system has been in attempting to reach solutions to the problems of dramatically increasing enrolment. We have used elementary schools. We have used old factories. We have used a church basement in perhaps one instance. We have most certainly used secondary school space at night, on weekends and during the day, if it happened to be totally vacant. We will continue to do that because we need to use whatever space is possible.

We need to put our money into the provision of program, not into the building of buildings, and that is what we have been trying to do. The member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) is making the illusion that we are perhaps second best to anyone in the quality of our post-secondary educational system. On behalf of all those institutions, I would not accept that suggestion.

Mr. Peterson: Regarding the government's policy with respect to applications for quota programs, limited application programs in the community colleges, is the minister not embarrassed that effectively what she is running is education by lottery or education by chance?

I point to a quotation by Mr. Michael LeMay of Fellowes High School that represents in real terms what she is doing to the educational system by this bizarre system of application:

"Every fall I stand up in front of students and tell them the importance of working hard and the importance of achieving good marks if they hope to attend a post-secondary school. I feel like an

absolute idiot when I have to tell them in April that whether they achieve 90 or 60 per cent, they will have to wait for the luck of the draw if the program they selected is oversubscribed."

What kind of system is that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The honourable member is again attempting to generalize for the entire system. It is absolutely not true. In certain of the oversubscribed programs there is, as a last resort, all other things being equal, a lottery for those who are equally qualified for admission to the course. That is a fact.

That decision was not made by the ministry. It was a recommendation of the educators at the college system level who have examined this problem over a period of 17 years and determined it is still the fairest way to admit students to the small number of limited enrolment programs that are habitually oversubscribed.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of the fact that the tobacco cutback is going to be the worst in decades during this coming year, 1984, and in view of the fact that I believe the minister has done some travelling this past week, does he have anything to report to the Legislature and to the tobacco farmers to give them any encouragement that their future might look a little brighter in the coming growing season? minister has done some travelling this past week, does he have anything to report to the Legislature and to the tobacco farmers to give them any encouragement that their future might look a little brighter in the coming growing season?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I understand that later this morning we will be discussing the subject of tobacco and the prospects for 1984 and beyond. I can tell the honourable member that after the beginning of negotiations between the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and I were asked for a meeting with the two parties to discuss their concerns.

The member will recall that it was at the initial negotiating meeting, which I believe was March 27, that the manufacturers indicated their purchases this year would be one third less than last year's. It was within that context that our meeting was held.

The Treasurer is reviewing their concerns with respect to levels of taxation and so forth. I might add that at the same time they asked to meet with

the Treasurer and me—and I believe we gave them that meeting within 24 hours of their asking for it—they asked for a meeting with the federal Minister of Finance and the federal Minister of Agriculture, which meeting has yet to be held; so the member will see that we have dealt with them and treated the issue on the urgent basis it deserves.

Last Friday I conveyed to the growers and the manufacturers the interest of this government in the matter, particularly with respect to the exports of tobacco from Ontario principally to the United Kingdom. I offered to go to the United Kingdom with the chairman of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, Mr. Demeyere, and with Mr. Gage, the chief negotiator for the manufacturers, to meet with their principal customers. We left on Monday evening and returned last evening. In the course of two full working days in the United Kingdom, we met with the Tobacco Advisory Council and the largest of their buyers.

In the course of our meetings I put the question very simply to our customers in the United Kingdom, "Are you interested in buying Ontario tobacco in the long term or is this merely part of a phase-out of Ontario from the United Kingdom market?" I am pleased to say the answer from every one of the people with whom we met, including some of the most senior people in the tobacco industry in the United Kingdom, was that they like Ontario tobacco, that they intend to continue to use Ontario tobacco and that we must remain price-competitive in a market which now has access to rather inexpensive tobacco from countries such as Brazil, South Korea, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The long-term prospect is that we will remain in that market so long as we can remain competitive.

Mr. Speaker, that was a lengthy answer, but I thought I should give a full one. I believe the growers and the manufacturers go back to the negotiating table on Tuesday of next week. We will know better then what effect our visit to the United Kingdom will have had, but I am optimistic.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I am not concerned about the politics or how many meetings the minister had with them. I want to make it clear to him that many dreams have turned into nightmares in the tobacco area. There was a story in the London Free Press dated April 4 that clearly indicates that. I will not use the name.

I am asking the minister, what is he planning to do to make sure these farmers can survive to support their families and their farms? Does he

have any future plans for that? Canagrex is sitting out there. I spoke to them yesterday, and I think they are willing to help in this area. It is time the provincial and federal governments worked together so we do not run into the disaster we appear to be facing.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: In reciting the list of meetings held, I wanted to emphasize to the member and to the growers and all interested parties that this government is treating this matter with the degree of urgency it deserves. By contrast, I point out that meetings that have been asked for with the federal government are still to be held. I was amazed on my return last evening to pick up the newspapers and see that the advice from the federal government apparently is to plough the tobacco under. They are not really taking it as seriously as are we.

I think the member will find that if he were to speak with the chairman of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, the chairman would report that this government is doing everything possible to help the growers to stabilize the situation in the face of decreasing demand for their product here and abroad. It is something that is not peculiar to Ontario or Canada. It is a phenomenon of the western world that the demand for tobacco is steadily decreasing. We must do everything possible to help them retain as much as possible of the markets we have had in the past.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, recognizing the validity of what the minister says with regard to the reducing market in this nation and probably the reducing world market for tobacco, not just because of taxation but also because of the trend away from smoking, what plans has he for, and what assistance is he prepared to give to the farmers in those areas who have traditionally grown tobacco, to change to other crops such as peanuts, so we could become more self-sufficient? We have done the groundwork with the growing of peanuts so there will be a product they can profitably grow on those lands. It seems to me that is the key question.

Will the minister abandon his lack of planning, get into planning and assure there will be a product from which those farmers can make a living?

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, we would not presume, as the honourable member seems to presume in this and other pronouncements, to have a state-run agricultural economy that would tell farmers exactly what they should grow.

Mr. Swart: I did not say that at all.

Mr. Rae: The farmers cannot sell their products. Who ever heard of such a marketing board? Even for the governing party that is beyond the pale.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Did I touch a nerve? Maybe I did.

Mr. Rae: This time the Conservatives have really outdone themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Through our county agricultural representatives, crop specialists and research stations, at all times we do work with individual producers to advise them on alternative crops they can consider. I will not go through the list of them; it would depend on the type of soil the farmers have, their acreage and a number of other factors.

We have been advising them that, depending on the final outcome of the negotiations between the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers, Marketing Board and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council which would indicate the total demand this year for both domestic and export purposes, they should plant their best acreage in tobacco and use the balance for other crops.

In all of those considerations they would have to look at the demand for those crops. They might want to look at corn, peanuts or a number of other possibilities. All the crops will have to be decided on the basis of the suitability of the soil, the acreage and the demand for that commodity. That is part of the agricultural economy.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the tax on 20 cigarettes in Ontario at this time is \$1.05 and that of this amount, 42 cents is payable to the government of Canada and 63 cents is payable to his colleague the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory)? In the last four years the tax in Ontario has gone up by 163 per cent. Would he not think that as well as following the New Democratic Party suggestion that we do away with the tobacco crop and start planting tomatoes and peanuts and so on, we should be doing something to reduce the outrageous and injudicious level of taxation to a point where it will stop depressing the market?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, all those points and more have been made by the representatives of the tobacco growers and manufacturers in meetings.

Mr. Nixon: What are you going to do about it? You do not think it is a valid point? All you do is take cheap shots at the government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Education follows from the questions raised in the House the other day by my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen). It has to do with the dramatic decline, as I am sure the minister is now aware, in the number of students who plan to enrol next year in technical courses.

We have done a survey of a number of boards of education and have found as follows: Enrolment in technical education courses through the board of education in South Niagara is down by a third; in London, it is down by 43 per cent; in Oxford county, by 30 per cent; in Middlesex county, by 21 per cent; in Elgin county, by 41 per cent; in Hamilton, by 32 per cent, and at the Lakehead, by 20 per cent. In Etobicoke, five of six schools showed declines of 42, 50, 54, 61 and 68 per cent in the plans of students to enrol in technical courses.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Given that the alleged purpose of the secondary education review project recommendations was to increase the strength of the links between the work place and education, how does the minister explain this extraordinary decline in planned enrolment next year in technical courses? What does she plan to do to turn this devastating situation around?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the honourable member has looked at the scheduling within the schools' curriculum proposal and whether there is some relative ease of access to all the programs. That matter is of concern to me.

The teachers I have talked to who have raised this issue have suggested very strongly that their own schools and they themselves have a responsibility to discuss with the principals of their schools the ways in which ease of access might be demonstrated more clearly to students, so that students at the second cut of their determination of the content of their courses for the next year might consider more clearly the option of attending industry-based or business-based courses in the grade 9 or 10 experience they hope to have.

Obviously there are some obstacles being raised. We are looking at this and trying to determine whether there is a universal obstacle. At this point, I cannot see a universal obstacle but there appear to be some impediments on an irregular basis across the system.

We will be examining this problem. As I told the member before, we will be doing it in as accurate a fashion and as fully as we possibly can.

Mr. Rae: This matter is of some urgency. A number of school boards are facing the difficult question of whether they must lay off teachers of shop courses who have been teaching in the system for some time. Is the minister aware that a number of teachers are being threatened with layoffs and that a number of students are not going to get access to those courses?

We are looking at a major change in the anatomy, the makeup and the quality of education for a number of our students. Is the minister aware of that, and what does she intend to do about it? The situation is not one that can wait for what she calls the second cut. It is one that needs to be responded to right away.

We are looking at a major change which she herself has initiated. The change has backfired. It has not produced the results she anticipated; it is going in the opposite direction. It is working against the interests of those students who need and want a technical education. It is something the minister should act on right away. What is she going to do?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not believe there is within the restructuring of the program an absolute obstacle to the participation of students who want to participate in industrial training or business-related courses. In fact, we have provided the framework in which it can be encouraged. I would anticipate the schools themselves would modify their internal structures to facilitate that participation.

It is a matter of real concern to me and one that is under study at the present time. Of course, the member will continue to suggest that what we are attempting to do is to make the school system more elitist. He should be a great judge of elitism, considering his background in education.

What we are really trying to do is attempting to provide the necessary foundation for learning for all students in this province in whatever direction they wish to proceed after their school experience. We shall continue to do that.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, given this massive anticipated decline in enrolment in technical courses and the fact that both the Scarborough and Etobicoke boards are contemplating laying off 15 to 20 technical teachers, I wonder whether this does not fly in the face of the Treasurer's budget paper, the human resources section on economic transformation, which says,

"Innovative firms require personnel capable of using technically advanced equipment and of adjusting to frequent changes in products and processes."

Is not what the minister is doing and allowing to happen in her ministry directly the opposite of the prebudget paper published by her colleague?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe it is. We have a great deal of indication from a very large number of extremely knowledgeable people who have looked at the requirements of future employees in all kinds of industries and have determined that what those employees will probably need most is the educational background that has provided them with the will and the opportunity to learn how to learn, to learn where they need to go to get the experience or knowledge they will require, and to become as flexible and adaptable as possible.

10:40 a.m.

They demonstrate very clearly that what we should not be doing is attempting to train any students in a narrow focus at a very early age within our secondary school system. We do want to have the opportunity provided to them to understand what business and industry are about and what the tools of industry look like, and we certainly want them to understand what their responsibilities will be in working, whatever they choose to do after they leave school. We want them to have that industrial and business experience.

The regional offices have been monitoring this closely. They have information that will be coming forward within the next few days, and I believe they will have some recommendations for me as well.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, the minister refers to preparing students with a broad range of educational experience, a sense of flexibility and a capacity for adaptability. The interesting thing about what is happening is that the signals she has been sending have not given that message, because the overwhelming drift is away from all the life skills and work skills electives and away from the technological options. She has betrayed the technical directions of this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: We expected of the secondary education review project reforms that there would be an integration of the work place and academic study, and now the signals have been otherwise.

How is the minister going to advise the boards of this province? For example, Etobicoke ex-

pects to lay off 10 teachers; Lakehead expects layoffs will be necessary; 29 teachers will have to be displaced at Peel and perhaps half of them laid off; tech shops will be closed in Peel as well as elsewhere. How is she going to advise boards, making very difficult decisions at this time about layoffs and the closing of shops, in order not to prejudice next year's education and subsequent years' education in the technical departments?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the honourable member that no school board in this province that has an adjacent separate school board should ever consider the closing of shops, because those shops should be available to the separate schools.

None the less, as I said very clearly five minutes ago, before the latest dissertation by the professor from Hamilton, we really are monitoring this situation and we are attempting to find an appropriate solution.

There was no intent and is no intent to move in the kind of direction the leader of the third party keeps telling the people of Ontario the Ontario Schools Intermediate and Senior Divisions guidelines are moving towards. We are really providing for the very first time the kind of educational experience that is relevant to all the students who study at all levels of difficulty within the secondary school system.

That is our aim and our objective and with the co-operation of the teachers of the province, who really are capable of doing this, as are the administrators of the province, we will succeed.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is nice to hear the minister stating for the record that she wants to see the leftovers going to the separate school system in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not say that.

Mr. Rae: That is a good message to be sending out.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is an untrue statement, and he is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: That is what you said, and it is exactly the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: That is not what I said. The leader of the third party knows full well that is not what I said, and it is unfortunate that he continues to try to distort.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CHEQUE-CASHING CENTRES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Premier. My question is about a number of organizations that we have raised in this House and others have raised outside, organizations whose whole reason for existing is to make money on the backs of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

I am thinking of organizations such as the National Money Mart, which, as I am sure the minister will be aware, charges money for the cashing of welfare cheques; companies whose sole purpose is to charge people for the collection of illegal rents, and an organization that charges injured workers for appearances before the Workers' Compensation Board and then demands a share of what the worker has been denied if the worker wins an appeal process.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier what the government is going to do about these parasites, these companies that are simply making money on the backs of poor people? All of them are working in areas where the government could act and where the government itself could be providing a service free of charge.

I would like to ask the minister to do two things. Will he take steps to make the kinds of things that are being done unlawful in Ontario? Will he take steps to see that the public sector and the public service provide these services at no expense, which is the way it should be done for those people who do not have very much money in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, if memory serves me correctly, this question was raised in the House about a week ago with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie). Indeed, during that exchange, the matter of jurisdiction was raised.

I would also point out it is my understanding the federal minister has indicated federal action is going to be taken in this matter, which seems to me to be the effective way because of the issues that are involved. No doubt we will be hearing more shortly with respect to that type of legislation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, will the minister not agree it is time we had some legislative insecticide for some of these parasites who are preying on people and that some of them are directly within his control?

Is he aware of Disabled Workers of Ontario, working just on compensation claims, which is charging membership rates of \$20, fees of \$50

and percentages on what it gets back, and which hangs around the waiting rooms in the WCB offices to try to promote itself? It is not just happening here in Toronto; they promote themselves around the province. There are offices in Hamilton.

The government could step in now and say that practice is illegal. The minister could step in and give money to the legal clinics in Ontario and to the legitimate disabled workers' groups which do not charge to undertake that kind of service. Will he not do that? Will he not make this practice illegal in the province? It is entirely within his jurisdiction to do so.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable member that we have these matters under review, and I will be glad to discuss them further with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay).

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, if the minister cannot answer the question, I certainly can, because when Disabled Workers of Ontario in Hamilton went under last year I was contacted by the Hamilton WCB office asking me whether I would take over the 80 or so files for workers the company left stranded across Hamilton. The Hamilton WCB office was kind enough to deliver those files to me, because this organization had left workers high and dry across Hamilton and they had no one to turn to.

My question for the minister is very specific on the issue of these organizations dealing with injured workers. There is an area where he can have direct input, and that is where former WCB employees leave their positions to set up private consulting practices, for employers in many cases and in some cases for employees, for a price, directly after having left the employment of the WCB.

I wonder when the government is going to introduce some guidelines about how former WCB employees and former civil servants must develop a rule of conduct in their dealings with those very organizations immediately after they have left their employment. When is the government going to develop conflict of interest guidelines for those employees and former employees?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this matter was raised some months ago in connection with a specific issue, although not the one to which the honourable member makes reference, and the judgement call with respect to the propriety of former civil servants or former crown agency employees working in this area. I am not able to

provide any definite information, but now that the matter has been raised once again, I can assure the member I will see she is brought up to date with respect to where those matters rest.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the minister will remember another parasitic service, the Rent Recovery Service, which, as I pointed out last week, has made a net profit of \$150,000 from charging a fee of 50 per cent of any rebates of illegal rents it collects on behalf of tenants.

In view of the fact that the minister in charge obviously has some kind of a logjam under way, with the policy issue tied up in a royal commission that has been busy since November 1982, and since the minister has been unable to give us a report of an investigation from his own business practices division which I believe started in November 1983—he has had November, December, January, February, March and now April to complete this investigation—I wonder if the minister could intervene with his colleague to try to find out what the problem is over there and why we cannot get any answers or information on what the logjam is all about.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, there is no question in my mind of the leadership that has been provided in that ministry by the incumbent. I feel when he is ready to make announcements with respect to this matter, they will be made. The member should have some—

Mr. McClellan: This is precisely the problem, isn't it?

RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR INMATES

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. Can the minister tell this House whether he feels it is important, wherever possible, to involve prisoners in religious services in correctional facilities across this province?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question I would say we do agree and this is being done in our institutions. I believe the honourable member wrote to me on this matter on two occasions and I replied to her.

Ms. Copps: If the ministry is concerned, I wonder if the minister can explain to this House why he has had the matter of the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre under review now for almost a two-year period and why his ministry, if it is so concerned about involving prisoners in religious services, constructed a multimillion-dollar jail in the city of Hamilton where prisoners cannot use the chapel on a

regular basis because it is outside the secure area. Who was the chapel built for anyway?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: As the member knows full well, in our institutions we have inmates who are security risks and from time to time we—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most of them are outside.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: No, they are not.

If the member wants an answer to the question, we have people in the institutions who are a security risk and pose this risk. Therefore, we have to be very careful about the movement of these people within the institutions. The member fully understands that, I am sure.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, quite simply, for those who are not serious security risks, will the minister not place a single guard near the entrance or within the chapel in the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre to make it possible for visitors and prisoners to use that religious facility, which is a very beautiful little chapel?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we do use the chapel in that institution. However, this is an institution with some people inside who are security risks and we cannot just freely move those people about in the institution.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Can the minister explain why his ministry has allowed our provincial roads and highways to deteriorate to the point where the Canadian Construction Association states that Ontario roads are now entering a critical stage in their life cycle, that the present deteriorating condition is costing the average motorist \$97 a year in extra repairs, reduced gas mileage and tire wear, and that almost 2,000 kilometres of the present highway are below provincial standards? Why has the minister allowed that to happen?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the member for Cornwall can read the The Road Information Program of Canada recommendations in a number of ways. I believe the TRIP Canada report states eight per cent of the provincial highways in Ontario need work done on them. To me, that means 92 per cent of the highways are in perfect condition. That is a pretty good record, better than any other jurisdiction.

Mr. Samis: The same report also states that more than one third of our highways in the next five years will deteriorate from good to fair or poor condition. What does the minister propose to do about that situation in view of the fact that

his budget has now reached the lowest level in 25 years as a percentage of the provincial budget, in view of the fact that for the last three years his road budget has been virtually frozen and he has said next year does not look any better, and in view of the fact that the present backlog of roads in need of repair is not being attended to?

Hon. Mr. Snow: We are giving a much higher priority to the maintenance programs in our budgeting within the overall ministry budget. It is not my intention to let the existing highway system deteriorate. It is not deteriorating. We are not able to construct new highways or added capacity because of budget constraints. That is quite obvious. The maintenance and the resurfacing work we are doing are being maintained at a reasonable level.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, the TRIP Canada study concluded that the worst highway in all Ontario was that roller-coaster of Highway 417 east of Ottawa, between Ottawa and the Quebec border. What, if any, plans does the minister have to repair that badly deteriorated stretch of fairly new highway?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I do not recall any comments by TRIP Canada on any highway in general or on Highway 417. I do not quite know what section the member is referring to. Is he referring to the Queensway?

Mr. Conway: Highway 417 in Ottawa. Do you mean you are not aware of its condition?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am aware of the soil condition problems we have had there.

Mr. Conway: What are you doing about it?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Ongoing programs in the ministry will correct that situation.

PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. At a meeting earlier this morning with members of two locals from the Windsor area the minister was asked to provide a legislative remedy for the problem of injured workers who are probationary workers and whose jobs are terminated before they can return to the job from their injuries. Instead of offering such a remedy, the ministry indicated there was a remedy through arbitration.

Can the minister make a commitment in the House this morning that this matter of probationary workers who face this kind of discrimination will be addressed in the revised Workers' Compensation Act which I understand is to come forward this spring? Can he assure this House the

commitment will go beyond a restatement of the potential remedies contained in the Ontario Human Rights Code?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as of this date, Friday, April 13, I cannot give the assurances the honourable member is looking for. I agree with him about the seriousness of the situation. The meeting we had this morning was an excellent one. The representatives from the three locals from Windsor all brought forward very reasoned arguments and documented those arguments. Because of the nature of the meeting this morning, we have to take a good, hard look at their concerns and at possible remedies.

However, the suggestion was made at the meeting this morning that there are remedies through the Ontario Labour Relations Board. We strongly urged the locals in question to file the appropriate grievances and to take this matter forward in that fashion. That does not mean we are not going to address it otherwise, but there is an avenue there. In the nature of what they told us this morning, we feel they might have an excellent case before the Ontario Labour Relations Board. We strongly suggested they should do it.

Furthermore, the activities of the member have assisted to a considerable extent in remedying the circumstances. The publicity that has been brought to this problem in the media by the efforts of the member has created a marked improvement in the situation.

Mr. Wrye: I want to remind the minister of a comment by Professor Paul Weiler almost four years ago in his report, *Reshaping Workers' Compensation for Ontario*, "I believe that the Workers' Compensation Act should contain an explicit prohibition against and an effective remedy for discrimination...it is improper—and it should be illegal—to penalize an employee for having exercised his statutory right."

That is what Professor Paul Weiler said in his report. Is the minister prepared to make a commitment in this House that those words of Professor Paul Weiler will be reflected in legislative action in the new Workers' Compensation Act?

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We are right in the middle of coming up with some final amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. We hope to be able to bring those forward in this Legislature in the not too distant future.

It is rather complex. There is a large number of amendments. I do not think it would be appropriate for me to start cherry-picking those

amendments in this Legislature until we have all of them put into a total package. Before we bring it into the Legislature, we will be conferring with injured workers' groups, with the employers' council and so on.

I would like to follow the procedures we set out in respect of the Workers' Compensation Board and present all the amendments as a total package.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister will know it is obvious what is happening in these cases is that companies are taking advantage of large numbers of unemployed, that workers are viewed by some of these companies as a dime a dozen and they can fire them for whatever reason they determine during that probationary period. That is the problem, whether it be at Chrysler, Central Stampings, National Auto Radiator or at many other companies across the province where this practice is occurring.

In view of that, why is he reluctant to take action to protect workers when the problem is so absolutely clear? Why is he reluctant to take action against these companies to stop this practice?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, there is no argument whatsoever between the honourable members and me as to the seriousness of the problem. That was magnified this morning by excellent presentations by various labour leaders from the Windsor area. I commend them for that.

We happen to believe there is currently in our statutes a course of action for the locals to take. We are suggesting they take that course of action. They have not done so yet. Let us ascertain first whether or not our present statutes will handle the matter before we start bringing loads of additional legislation into this Legislature. We should be looking at less legislation, rather than increased amounts.

ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister will be aware that the Canada-Ontario employment development program grant will run out for the HEED program on May 30. HEED, which stands for Helping Etobicoke's Elderly and Disabled, has applied to his ministry for assistance to keep operating.

Can the minister inform the House whether or not this program, which helps seniors to remain in their homes and not be institutionalized, will receive any funding from his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, first, the funding for that organization came through COED and through the Ministry of Labour, never through my ministry. Second, my deputy minister gave the member an answer yesterday in the standing committee on public accounts.

Mr. Philip: In fact, the deputy minister said in committee he had no knowledge of it, but he would contact the minister and the minister would answer in this House. I would suggest the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Philip: —read Hansard and not misinform the House. Is the minister not aware that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not what my deputy minister told me.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary, please.

Mr. Philip: I do not care what the deputy minister told you.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Philip: The fact is it is in Hansard. Read Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Mr. Philip: As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted by the minister, who does not even read Hansard, is the minister aware that in contrast to the Ontario average of 10 per cent, at the present time 17.7 per cent of the population of Etobicoke are over the age of 65 or in some way disabled?

If the federal government wishes to shelve senior citizens and the disabled in institutions and not keep them in their own homes, why does he not at least take the initiative that was asked of him by this organization to have some assistance at the provincial level to keep these people out of institutions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The member is obviously either misinformed or has no memory. The federal government cut off a number of institutions in Etobicoke last fall and last spring. I can look at one of my party whips, the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn). He was in to see me on behalf of his organizations and they were funded.

I am looking around for the vice-chairman of the standing committee on social development, the member for Humber (Mr. Kells). He was in to see me with his list of organizations serving the elderly that had lost their funding. I funded them.

I look around at my friend the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko). He was in with a list of organizations all providing services for the elderly that were cut off by the federal government. I funded them.

I find it very peculiar that the member is so late. As my deputy told the member yesterday, we will look into it.

Mr. Philip: On a point of order: I have written to the minister on several occasions. Unfortunately, he has never responded.

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask the Attorney General about the Young Offenders Act. It has come to my attention that yesterday His Honour Judge Karswick in Brampton declined to hear a case under the act because he considered himself to be without status as a judge to do so.

In the opinion of Judge Karswick, Bill 149, which declared the provincial court a youth court for the purposes of the Young Offenders Act, apparently made no similar provision in respect of provincial court judges for the purposes of the Young Offenders Act. Apparently, that interpretation was followed by Judge Staught of the same court. He also accepted the reasoning and declined to sit in cases in this area.

Is the Attorney General aware of this apparent difficulty? What is his advice about how this problem is going to be sorted out, if it does exist?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, with great respect to these learned family court judges, we do not agree with their interpretation. The issue has been raised and it must be addressed seriously. At present we are planning a mandamus application that will be heard in the Supreme Court of Ontario on Tuesday of next week.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. After the McPherson report, the Hockey Ontario Development Committee was formed. Since that time one association after another has pulled away from it until on March 31, 1984, the Hockey Ontario Development Committee folded its tent. In other words, it collapsed.

What type of organization do we now have in place to fill the vacuum left after the collapse of the committee to oversee hockey development and see that some uniformity in the application of the rules is in effect in Ontario? What type of committee does the minister have to take its place?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I reported to the House some weeks ago that we had invited Mr. Syl Apps to work with the various hockey leagues—the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey

League, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and the six or seven others—to see what kind of mechanism or organization could be created that would be acceptable both to the leagues and to us, the kind of organization we could finance.

We felt the Hockey Ontario Development Committee did a tremendous job over its three-year lifespan in developing trainers' institutes and coaching and refereeing institutes, in parent education and so on; so we believe it is essential for the best development of hockey in Ontario to have a successor organization to the HODC. I cannot at this time tell the honourable member precisely what the successor organization will be.

11:10 a.m.

As the member for Sudbury (Mr. Martel) knows, some of the bosses of amateur hockey in Ontario have their own ideas about what should and should not be. We are still continuing to work with them. We are committed to the idea of having some kind of a successor mechanism to look after the further development of coaches, trainers, referees, parent education and so on. We feel it is absolutely essential. I share the view of the member for Sudbury that, among other things, the incidence of serious injury is at an unacceptable level, and we fully intend to do something about it.

Mr. Martel: What type of funding has the minister provided in the past to determine the number of medical problems that are arising out of hockey? What type of assistance is he getting from the Ministry of Health in order to get permission to go to the hospitals to gather that information so that, once it is gathered, we can then do an analysis to try to determine whether the accidents that occur arise out of improper equipment or some violation of the rules of the game? In other words, what type of funding has the minister provided and what type of funding is he prepared to provide to do a proper of assessment of what is going on? Finally, can the minister tell us what the medical costs were last year for injuries arising out of hockey accidents?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We have really financed three thrusts to look into the whole question of injuries.

We are financing entirely the study of the University of Waterloo under Professor Bishop, the man who is monitoring hockey injuries right across Canada. This is really a service for all Canadians, not just those of us here in Ontario. He is monitoring the injuries and looking at the causes.

We are also partly financing the study at Sunnybrook Medical Centre by Dr. Tator, who is looking at the number of injuries, not necessarily the causes of injuries.

As I announced here about two weeks ago, we are financing entirely the sports medicine centre, which is certainly going to be playing a very major role in this.

It is not for lack of funds or support from government that the hockey world is not moving as fast as it should be. We are solidly behind them and, as I say, we are committed to this thing; we are not going to be relaxing on our oars.

HOTEL LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am sure you will recall that yesterday I raised a question concerning the unfortunate strike between 10 of the major hotels of this city and 3,500 employees. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) was not in the House at that time, so we did not get a direct answer or a statement from him yesterday.

The Minister of Labour was in the House today, but we did not receive a statement from him today either. I was wondering when the government of Ontario was going to inform the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PETITIONS

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce petitions on behalf of the following members: Scarborough North (Mr. Wells), Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch) and Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague)

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The Russian school system is pretty good.

Mr. Kolyn: I believe the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) was there. Why don't you ask him?

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value

was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 14 residents of the city of Etobicoke, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Unlike the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn), I can say without hesitation that I am not just presenting this motion, I am also in favour of it.

HAMILTON GO-ALRT

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following petition from 3,595 residents in Hamilton West who are aggrieved over the route it is proposed that the government of Ontario advanced light rail transit system will take and especially over the fact that they were never consulted and only found out about this decision after it was published in the press and journalists came knocking on their doors.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned taxpayers of the city of Hamilton and region, wish to express our opposition to the proposed GO-ALRT system anywhere on York Street, on ground, above ground or below ground, for the following reasons:

"1. It is an untried, unproven, driverless, unsafe system.

"2. It would completely disrupt our neighbourhood.

"3. It would constitute a misuse of our tax dollars.

"4. It would destroy the quality of life in the York Street area.

"5. It would cause our homes to be expropriated or devalued.

"6. It would cause noise pollution.

"7. It would force businesses to relocate.

"8. It would cause disruption of traffic.

"9. It would ruin our beautiful entrance to the city and the beauty of Dundurn park.

"10. It would cause litter pollution in the vicinity."

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Rotenberg and Mr. Cureatz exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. G. I. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that being the fact that the future of the Ontario flue-cured tobacco industry has been jeopardized by severe increases in tobacco taxes introduced by the government of Ontario and the government of Canada; that initial negotiations of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers, Marketing Board for the marketing of tobacco this year indicated a reduction in crop sizes of 33 per cent; that such a reduction would result in the loss of 5,000 jobs in harvest and labour required by the processing plant, and that the future viability of this once-prosperous industry, currently representing 2,550 farmers in Ontario, is being destroyed with no alternative options for crop substitutions being offered by the provincial government.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 34(a), the honourable member has up to five minutes to state his case.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Having consulted with my colleagues the House leaders of the other two parties, I understand there is no objection and they are quite anxious that the debate go forward. With permission, I suggest we might dispense with the five-minute reasons why it should go forward so we could proceed with the debate without further delay.

Mr. Speaker: I find the motion to be in order. Therefore, the question to be decided is, shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

11:20 a.m.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that this Legislature has seen fit to set this morning aside to discuss the tobacco industry in Ontario. It plays a major role in my riding of Haldimand-Norfolk and that part of Ontario.

It is unfortunate that we have come to see the industry in its present position. It is not the first time this side of the House has brought to the attention of the government that the agricultural industry is in dire straits. I believe we initiated an emergency debate some time ago in regard to other areas of the agricultural industry. Last fall we asked for an emergency debate on the beef industry, which was not granted. So today it gives me a lot of satisfaction, not pleasure, to have the opportunity to bring to this Legislature the problems of an industry that has turned a blowing-sand area of Ontario into a productive industry and perhaps one of the most rewarding industries Canada has ever had. This came about because they have a fine marketing board and were well organized. Over the years they have provided leadership, going back some 27 years.

The problem arises from the high taxation that has been brought about by government, not only this government but also the federal government. They have increased that taxation at a time when we should be encouraging sales. With the cost of energy rising at a very rapid rate and with energy of such importance to the industry, their costs have increased to the point where they cannot afford to take a cut in production such as is proposed this year.

In 1982, 230 million pounds of tobacco was produced. That was the quota established by the marketing board. In 1983, it was reduced to 215 million pounds. This year it is going to be reduced by a further 33 per cent to the neighbourhood of between 145 million and 155 million pounds. That means a reduction of income of approximately \$114 million.

The farmers have incurred high costs modernizing their equipment and bringing in new kilns. Incidentally, a lot of this equipment is manufactured in the area. There has been a strong propensity to utilize and harness the resources we have in the area. The large quota reduction will put a tremendous strain on many of those farmers.

As I indicated in my question to the minister this morning, and I sent a copy of an article to him, this dream is turning into a nightmare. I am receiving letters from my constituents expressing those very same fears in the strongest possible

ways. I hope it does not happen, but it well could turn into as drastic an action as happened in the South Cayuga incident where the government was trying to force people to accept the use of land and not using the proper legislation. I know that feeling is there. I am not using it as a threat, because I feel we have to sit down and deal with this rationally.

I know the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) and the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) have been in the area many times. The Premier (Mr. Davis) was down there less than two years ago, on June 23, 1982, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board. He remarked at that time:

"For the future, we have much to look forward to. The tobacco industry is heading for a record year and the government which I have the honour to lead will continue working to support the agriculture community as a whole. I congratulate you on your first 25 years. May the next quarter century be as successful. I know you will dedicate your best efforts to achieving that."

Since the Premier was down that evening, and I was there along with 2,500 other tobacco farmers, the tobacco tax in Ontario has been doubled and that money is going into the coffers of Ontario. I do not think it shows the heart and soul of this government is protecting an industry that has been so valuable to the overall economy of Ontario, Canada and our export market.

I would like to point out that we have met with the tobacco board in the past year. I believe there were members from all sides of the House at that meeting, which goes back to July or August. There were the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven), the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), myself and federal members. It was brought to our attention then that the industry was in serious difficulty. They asked us to use all the expertise at our disposal to come up with solutions to this problem.

The purpose of the discussion this morning is to come up with rational ways in which we can deal with it. We understand world production is increasing. We have to compete with Brazilian producers who are producing about 500 million pounds this year. Their cost of drying a kiln with oil is \$4 to \$5, while ours runs at \$400; with natural gas, it is about \$125 less.

I question how much of that energy cost represents taxes, which add to the cost of overall operation. As any farmer knows, energy plays an important role in producing and preparing the

ground for crops, and much of that is in taxes. Everywhere one turns there is tax upon tax.

There is an editorial by one of the better writers for the tobacco industry, Dave MacLaren; I will not read it because it is long, but it hits the point. I will send it to the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Treasurer since it shows the concerns that are being expressed about being taxed out of business. That is the concern I want to express this morning.

Nobody is against taxing in a reasonable manner. We all feel we should pay our fair share, but when one has to pay tax upon tax, increasing costs by 167 per cent while everything else is held at five per cent, that is ridiculous. I do not think we should have to stand for it. It is putting the industry out of business.

This morning I also have a brochure, *History and Holidays in the Rich Lands Behind the Lakes*, which has a picture of a tobacco field. I bring it to the attention of every member to show how neat those tobacco farms are. Anything that is kept as neat requires a lot of labour and energy. I put it forward so members can see what has happened.

To go back to the history of the area, there is an article in the *Canadian Tobacco Grower*, dated November 1983. The editor is David MacLaren. It indicates the magic of tobacco and shows a picture of the fields in the area in the early 1900s when there was nothing but blowing sand. They had cut down the forests and there were a few straggly trees and sand.

It sums it up this way: "As a disillusioned farmer remarked in the late 1920s, 'I sow 10 bushels of rye to get five bushels back.'" That indicates how far that area has come with tobacco in the last 64 years, from the 1920s. They have managed to get a fair return for their product while being good stewards of the soil. They are certainly worthy of the support of this government and this province through some financial assistance—maybe interest assistance—and lowering of taxes to make sure the industry survives.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, it is a good thing we are having an emergency debate on this issue. There is no question that there is a major problem facing tobacco producers. Frankly, I find myself in some difficulty in speaking on this issue, and every other person in this House will probably find himself in that same position to a very substantial extent.

On the one hand, I recognize the hardship that is being created to the tobacco producers and

ultimately to the thousands of people who work in that industry. I know these tobacco producers have had pride in their operation and have worked hard, and now that pride is turning into despair. An industry that brought in some \$200 million to \$300 million is certainly reducing, and I think anyone would agree that its long-term prospects are not very bright. That is true for the 30,000 or 40,000 people who are involved in this industry as well.

In addition, if we look only at the one side of the coin, more than \$1 billion in total government revenue in Canada is derived from this industry, and therefore one cannot help but have some real concern about what is taking place and what it is doing to the people involved in this industry.

On the other hand, I think all of us recognize too that smoking is a dangerous habit. The best estimates are that some 30,000 people in Canada are dying prematurely, losing their lives because of smoking. I think we also recognize that there are huge costs—particularly health costs, but all kinds of costs—to society because of this habit. They are costs not just to the individuals, although there is a cost to them, but also to society through the Ontario health insurance plan and in a great variety of ways.

In fact, it is estimated by some groups that the costs to society exceed the revenues, and I believe that may well be true if we look at all the costs, if we look at the premature deaths of trained people and so on.

Mr. G. I. Miller: How about liquor?

Mr. Swart: Yes, there are real problems there too; I do not deny that.

I know that to a very large extent this resolution is aimed at the taxes on tobacco, and I think we all recognize they have some bearing on the consumption of tobacco; the price to the consumer obviously has some bearing. But at the present time the economy of this nation is having some bearing on it as well. We have 1.5 million people unemployed; many others are only partially employed or were getting \$12 an hour and now are getting \$5 an hour, and they have cut back on their consumption of tobacco. In addition, there is the trend against smoking.

I am not at all sure we should say that taxes should be cut to encourage a greater consumption of tobacco. I am sure most members of this House will be aware of the report of the Ontario Council of Health, which was tabled in 1982, called *Smoking and Health in Ontario: A Need for Balance*. It is worth reading. I hope all members will read it. It will tell them a bit about the health consequences of smoking tobacco.

I do not want to spend an undue amount of time on this. The report says smoking causes death, disease and disability, and then it goes on to give the rates. The overall death rate for male smokers is 1.7 times higher than for nonsmokers, and it is 1.3 times higher for females. The risk of dying between the ages of 35 and 65 is 2.5 times higher for daily smokers.

Then it goes on to say in recommendation 4—this is a recommendation to the government, and I am sure this government has to struggle with it just as any government would—"It is recommended that the government of Ontario take action to ensure that the retail price of cigarettes be doubled within a 12-month period by means of a three-phase increase in basic taxation on tobacco products and ensure through taxation that the price of cigarettes keeps up with inflation thereafter."

That is a recommendation the Minister of Agriculture and Food, along with the rest of the cabinet, has to deal with. I do not envy the job the government has in dealing with this matter.

I would suggest to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that when he gets up with all his concerns, instead of making an interjection when I ask a supplementary, he should state his position on the recommendations. He should state whether he thinks steps should be taken to promote a reduction in the number of smokers and a reduction in smoking. He should deal with it. One cannot deal with just one side of this issue.

The question is, "What do we do?" Quite frankly, we have to try to keep our share of the world market. I do not think we should try to promote it in areas where people are not smoking or are not smoking much at the present time, but if it is going to be used, we should keep our share of the world market. More research should be done on less hazardous forms of smoking, on filters and many of those things so we can eliminate some of the health dangers.

Most of all, we must provide alternative crops. This government must be willing to do some economic planning in our society so there are alternatives for those farmers. It cannot leave everything to the marketplace. Government has to involve itself and provide the solutions in our society for these questions.

Then there is the question of self-sufficiency. We can grow more tomatoes in this country if both the provincial and federal governments really mean their rhetoric about self-sufficiency. Although it is not a big crop, we can grow more strawberries. We could even have a sugar beet

industry. I recognize some of the soil that is growing tobacco is not totally suited for growing sugar beets, but we lost our total sugar beet industry in this province and nation. Maybe we should try to revive it.

We should be expanding the production of peanuts by all kinds of incentives. They tell me the consumption of peanuts in this nation is worth something like \$100 million. It could be a \$100-million industry. Peanuts grow in the same type of soil. With proper planning, if the tobacco acreage drops—or hectares, as we call them now—by 50 per cent over the next 15 years, we can use that land for growing peanuts.

I have a newspaper item here about the whole peanut industry. It is at the point where it can take off, but the minister is going to have to give greater incentives than we have had in the past. He is going to have to fight the way the fight that took place to get insurance was waged. He is going to have to subsidize the machinery and get a stabilization program for those peanut producers. It can be done if he has the will, and we can keep those farmers viable.

In conclusion, I will not fight to maintain the level of tobacco consumption. I will support voluntary measures to reduce the number of smokers and the tobacco consumed. It has to be—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I thank the honourable member. His time has expired.

Mr. Swart: I have one more sentence, Mr. Speaker.

It has to be an orderly reduction, and I will fight to maintain a viable agricultural operation of one kind or another for all those tobacco farmers.

11:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have been pleased to listen to the contributions made by the member for Haldimand-Norfolk and the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart). The member for Haldimand-Norfolk's interest in and concern for the tobacco growers is something that is well known to me in that we have discussed it on a number of occasions.

I will not spend long on the taxation issue, because that is a matter for my colleague the Treasurer to address, except to offer these comments. The Treasurer and I met with representatives of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board of Ontario and representatives of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council in September of last year and again a couple of weeks ago.

On both those occasions, and I am sure on others when I have not been present, both the

growers and the manufacturers have made very clear to the Treasurer their concern about the level of taxation in Ontario and in Canada on tobacco products. As a matter of fact, there is a task force at work now to advise the federal Minister of Finance on taxation matters as they relate to tobacco, as well as to alcohol, wine and beer.

I recall at the most recent meeting the Treasurer made it very clear that he shares their concern for finding a way to control or to end the spiralling effect, which is currently the case. I believe the Treasurer is working hard at finding a way to attempt to address—if not entirely, at least in part—those concerns, as he must do each year. He works equally hard to strike a proper balance between his revenue requirements for the expenditures of the ministries and his priorities for the economy.

Earlier this morning, I went on at some length—and I apologize again that it was a lengthy answer, but I thought it required a lengthy and full answer—about what we are doing with the growers and with the manufacturers to attempt to shore up our exports. I want to point out that over the course of the last 10 to 13 years, our exports have grown rather markedly until the last couple of years.

I would point out to the members that whatever impact a decline in exports has this year on the decline in acreage, it has nothing whatsoever to do with Ontario or Canadian taxation. It may have to do with taxation in the United Kingdom where the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Lawson, has just recently imposed an additional tax of 10 pence per 20 cigarette pack. That is beyond the 17-pence additional tax imposed in 1981 by the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mr. Kerrio: What is their tax in real money?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It amounts to about four per cent of the revenue of the government of the United Kingdom at the present time, which is down from 14 per cent in the early 1960s.

It has to do with the competitive qualities of Brazilian tobacco, a country which has gone from very limited production a decade or two ago to the point where it is now one of the major producers in the world. It has to do with the reintroduction into the United Kingdom of tobacco from Zimbabwe, the former colony of Southern Rhodesia. It has to do with the production of tobacco in India, South Korea, Malawi and in a number of countries which have a much lower cost of production. As the member for Haldimand-Norfolk quite properly pointed

out, these countries have a much better tariff when it comes to entering the European Economic Community.

Members will recall that we lost the imperial preferential tariffs some years ago when Britain joined the community, and we had additional duties applied to us at a time when countries such as Brazil, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and so forth, which are in the developing world, got preferential treatment compared to us. So there are a number of factors at play out there, quite unrelated to the matter of taxation in Ontario or in Canada, that have impacted on our exports of tobacco.

I repeat that the purpose of our three-day visit to the United Kingdom was very simply to impress upon the buyers in the United Kingdom that we fully intend to do everything possible to remain competitive in the world market, particularly with respect to the quality of the tobacco we produce. The honourable members opposite and on this side of the House, such as my colleague the member for Oxford, who represent tobacco-producing areas, will know of the efforts that have been made over the last 10 to 20 years to improve the quality of the tobacco we produce to meet the demands of the domestic as well as the export market.

We also assured them we are very conscious of the need to remain price competitive. We have certain advantages with respect to the quality of tobacco, the price of transportation and the quality of the pack here in Ontario that other countries do not have, but we recognize we must remain quality competitive as well.

I put the question to them: "In the light of reductions in recent years—and I understand the impact of the changes in demographics in the United Kingdom and in Europe, that is, the changes in smoking habits; I understand the impact of Brazilian, Zimbabwean, Malawian or South Korean prices—are you in the process of phasing us out of your market? Are you planning to change the blend of your cigarettes to remove Ontario tobacco from the United Kingdom?"

That is a very critical question, because we had indicated to the growers and manufacturers here that our government is prepared—this will be a significant new departure—to introduce programs to support the export of tobacco, at least over the course of the next few years as the situation stabilizes. I said to them, "However, if you are going to phase us out, that will dictate quite a different direction in policy than if it is simply a matter of your having to adjust to changes in your

market, to which obviously we will have to adjust as well."

The answer from everyone we spoke to was that they see a continuing need for Canadian tobacco—and for all intents and purposes that means Ontario tobacco, because we produce about 90 per cent of Canadian tobacco—an intention to continue the mixtures and the blends that require Canadian tobacco, underlining at every meeting their concern about our prices.

I recall that we were in a meeting on Wednesday at the Tobacco Advisory Council, and on the basis of 1983 prices we were told we stood at something like two pounds, 90 pence per kilogram as compared to two pounds, 19 pence, I believe it was, for Zimbabwean tobacco. That is quite a spread.

There are certain things in our favour that still keep a market there for us, but the point was made to us, "Do not allow that spread to widen much further or we will have to re-evaluate where you stand in our marketplace." In fact, the sum total of all the advice we got was that they are going to continue to require our product.

Next Tuesday the growers and the Canadian manufacturers go back to the bargaining table. We should know then to what extent this trip this week has an impact, if any, on the amount of tobacco the domestic manufacturers will require.

I do not think anyone is under any illusion. Whatever the final number will be, there will be a cut from last year and some growers will have to convert some of their acreage; in some cases, depending on their size, perhaps all. As I said earlier in question period, we will continue to work with individual producers to advise them, on the basis of the type of soil, the acreage and the relative merits of various commodities, what they should convert to.

I was intrigued as the member for Welland-Thorold read off his list of alternative crops as he sees them. They are all crops in which our government has invested a great deal of money and staff time and has worked with individual growers. We worked in peanuts; and the member for Haldimand-Norfolk will be aware of that, because we have been on the same platform on several occasions in Simcoe talking about peanuts. We worked on strawberries, we worked on the development of a mechanical harvester for strawberries; we worked on corn—all of these things that are alternatives.

We will continue to do everything we can to stabilize the demand for Ontario tobacco in the export market, at the same time working with and for individual producers and the overall agricul-

tural community where shifts will be required on individual farms.

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we designate the process that brought this debate forward an emergency, and really it is an emergency. Last year the tobacco crop was reduced by five per cent but, as the minister has pointed out, in a meeting just over a week ago between the growers and the processors, the processors indicated to the growers that their requirements for the coming year would be reduced by in excess of 33 per cent. We hope that is an exaggeration, but if the crop reduction is of that amount, it is estimated by at least one authority reported in the *Toronto Star* yesterday, April 12, as follows:

"A cut of that size could drive 800 tobacco growers out of production and cause the loss of 15,000 seasonal jobs in southwestern Ontario. The production cuts would mean the loss of 8,000 jobs harvesting the crop, 4,000 jobs planting and 3,000 to 4,000 jobs preparing the crop for market. More jobs would be lost because the small crop would force the board to close one, and possibly two, of its auction barns located in Delhi, Aylmer and Tillsonburg."

Obviously, some of those jobs are overlapping, but the economic impact is tremendous. We must not brush this aside as some small change in the agricultural economy of this province.

We can argue, I suppose for a long time, on the morality of people smoking cigarettes, but in this province it is not illegal to smoke and many thousands, in fact millions, of people smoke, have smoked and will continue to smoke.

The use of cigarettes dropped about five per cent last year. While we can use our own judgement as to whether that was a health concern, and there is no doubt it partly was, whether it was in response to the strong advertising programs of the governments of Ontario and Canada persuading people to stop smoking, and they are powerful programs indeed, or whether people feel the cost of cigarettes has got to the point where they cannot afford to smoke any more, is a judgement that is a personal matter.

I want to say again what I said in question period. We cannot slough off the impact of the huge increases in tobacco taxes that have taken place by the government of Canada and, much more severely, by the government of Ontario over the past four years.

One need only look up the debate on last year's budget, May 24, 1983, where the Liberals and the New Democratic Party opposed the increase in the tobacco tax, put forward the specific numbers at that time and warned about the effects it might have, and now we find it did have, on the consumption of cigarettes.

We can argue for a long time that a 45 per cent tax at the provincial level, with a new sales tax slapped on top of it at seven per cent, was unconscionable and bad judgement on the part of the Treasurer of the day.

In his comments, the Minister of Agriculture and Food said he did not want to talk about that because it was the responsibility of his colleagues the Treasurer and the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory). That is unacceptable. If their policy is going to put in jeopardy the second-largest, most productive, economic agriculture—

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I did speak about it.

Mr. Nixon: I know the minister did. He said he should not, though. He said he did not want to and he implied he had little or no influence on the policy, which I hope is a mistake. I know he does not have much influence over there, but if he allows them to go through the next budget without an important adjustment downward in the tobacco tax, then he is not worth his salary. He can forget that, and he can forget other ambitions. I do not particularly want to get into that, but for any member of this House to dismiss the tremendously negative effect of the high, large, accelerating increases in tobacco taxes is unfair.

If this is a matter of government policy to stop people from smoking, it should say so and allow us to debate that matter. That has never been said. That has never been indicated as a matter of government policy and I do not believe it ever will be.

The citizens of this province are well informed of the bad effects of smoking. They have made their choices from time to time and continue to do so. The decrease was five per cent, directly related to these factors we have been discussing.

The revenue from tobacco in Canada is not \$1 billion; it is well in excess of \$2 billion. In Ontario, we expect to collect \$533 million this year. I ask the members to compare that with the \$295 million which is the total budget of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

As a matter of fact, the Minister of Revenue takes in about \$5,000 per acre of tobacco grown and the farmers gross only something just over half that. The farmers are certainly looking at the government and seeing that it has intruded into

the economy of the tobacco market in a way that has been more than destructive. It is in the process of annihilating this industry.

There is another important point we should be discussing. Every member, in particular the member for Welland-Thorold, who has just left on another errand, has indicated we should be looking at alternative crops. Of course, the tobacco farmers are not going to let the land sit idle, but the total number of acres is comparatively very small. I will tell members once more that there is no possible crop, except marijuana, that will come within even 10 to 15 per cent of the net return on tobacco.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Marijuana?

Mr. Nixon: I am not in favour of growing marijuana.

Mr. Breaugh: Is this new Liberal Party policy?

Mr. Nixon: Just listen to this. To talk about growing melons or peanuts or tomatoes or petunias is lovely, but it will in no way replace the growing of tobacco.

My colleague said in his very fine remarks a few minutes ago he recalled the situation in that part of Ontario before the tobacco crop came in there. I can recall going down there 50 years ago in the 1930s with my dad, who was the member then, when it must have been one of the poorest spots in Canada.

The soil is fox sand. It was blowing across the old gravel roads. The township did not have the money to keep it up. My dad said 90 per cent of the people in that township at that time were on relief. People were moving out of there as fast as they could because it was just the end as far as farming was concerned.

Initiative brought in this new crop from the United States. Growers and technical people were brought from the United States, and even though it was a Liberal government at the time, I believe it was the farmers themselves and the entrepreneurs who had the initiative to do this.

If members were to drive down there—and I invite them all to follow the map the member for Haldimand-Norfolk has put on their desks—if they go down there in two or three weeks' time, it is an absolute paradise. The farms could not be in better repair. The buildings and the homes are beautiful. The crops are absolutely weedless. The rows are perfect. The windbreaks are growing and trimmed. It is absolutely the greatest farming area in Canada. I say that, which is something no politician should ever say. It is even more beautiful than the farming areas in Brant and Oxford. It is an absolute paradise.

The roads are paved. The schools are full of young people. The communities are active, in many instances in community centres they have built themselves. The people go to church. They are productive, and believe me, they are hard-working. The process of growing tobacco has changed in the last few years, but those families, Anglo-Saxon, but mostly many other ethnic peoples who have come since the war, have worked in a way that most of us cannot even imagine to produce those fine farms and those productive capabilities that have in the past really made many of those farmers rich. They have been well-to-do, the best farmers as far as their efficiency and their incomes are concerned, not only in Canada but perhaps even in North America.

Obviously, if tobacco goes out of production they will have to replace it with something, but do not get the idea that another crop can replace tobacco. It cannot.

The research going on in peanuts and other crops is very welcome. Certainly, we are going to use this. The one thing we can do here is to send a message to the Treasurer, who is absent, that his budget must reflect this emergency situation in a reduction of the tobacco tax. We made a serious mistake in this House a year ago and the year before that in allowing these taxes to be increased at unconscionable rates.

As a matter of fact, in the last four years the tobacco tax has gone up 45 per cent federally and 163 per cent provincially. We must remedy that at the first opportunity.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise in this debate with—

Mr. McClellan: Fear and trembling.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —a bit of fear and trembling, yes. I am a recently stopped smoker and the propensity for self-righteousness has already been noticed by many other people.

Mr. Shymko: How about drinking?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Good for you. Nixon does not drink or smoke either.

12 noon

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will try to couch my remarks more in terms of the conundrum we should all have as legislators on this question about tobacco growing and about the health effects that are on the other side of things. I accept full well the fact that this is an emergency and, for the people who are growing tobacco and for the other people in the tobacco industry, a major financial problem is facing them that could mean devastation for many people. I concur that

there is need for action to assist those people. It needs to be immediate and it needs to be addressed by the Treasurer as quickly as we possibly can.

But we have to juxtapose our discussion of how we do that, it seems to me, with the other side of the reality. It is somewhat ironic, and perhaps the Minister of Agriculture and Food will agree, that here we have a Minister of Agriculture and Food who was also Minister of Health. As a former Minister of Health, he knows the other side of the story.

The member for Brant-Oxford—

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Whatever.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —Norfolk—I am sorry, I did not do that on purpose—quoted a line from a story in the Toronto Star. But I was also struck by another one in which somebody was participating in the daffodil campaign around cancer research. He pointed out the figure of 500 people every week who die from smoking-related diseases. That is an incredibly devastating figure on the other side of things.

My colleague the member for Welland-Thorold raised the matter of the report on the effects of smoking that was produced by the Ontario Council of Health. I think it is important for us to remember what it embodied and what it symbolized. It is, in fact, a statement of government policy federally and provincially to make a major attack on smoking to try to deter the amount of smoking that people such as myself and others were doing and to point out the dangers to our health and the costs to the health system and to the people of Ontario that were involved in it.

One of the major recommendations in it is that the cost of cigarettes be doubled as one of the deterrents. That is policy, part of a whole program of promotion that has been going on, a program of raising the taxes to put some money back in that would help on the health care side of the system and trying to balance things.

If what has happened as a result of this is that there has been a reduction in the consumption of tobacco in this country, we should all be very happy, it seems to me. If that has been done on the backs of people who are involved in what has been accepted as a legitimate industry in this society for many years, then that is unfair and it should not be allowed to take place.

I cannot join with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk in his attack on the taxing side of things. I did not like ad valorem as a method, but I cannot help feeling that if our goal is to

reduce consumption, then we have to take that approach.

What we do have to talk about is how we are going to protect the farmers who are involved. I think that is where my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold spoke about a number of the options the government should be following.

Mr. Nixon: The government weeps all the way to the bank. Half a billion a year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I accept the point of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, who is now interjecting, that the profits from growing peanuts, although that will be a more profitable crop than corn these days, are not the same as those that can be raised from growing tobacco.

But what is the downside of what we are trying to do for the protection of health in our society? What are the costs of that? Surely we cannot say to people that we can guarantee they will have a nirvana, as the member was describing the tour of that region, but rather that they shall have a good basic income, they should be able to earn an income that other farmers should be able to earn and they should get their due reward from that, but from crops that, I hope, will be more socially useful, if I can put it that way.

Mr. Nixon: Do not damn them to the returns of the average farmer or they will all be on relief. That is where they started.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Again, I would agree with the interjection that we should not damn them to their problems, that there are many farmers who are facing bankruptcy. The need for farm stabilization programs is one that I think all members on this side of the House, at any rate, agree on very fundamentally.

But I do have a problem, and I would raise this, with the dilemma we face in this matter, with the former Minister of Health saying we are going to protect our export markets. Let us look a little bit at our notion of social responsibility in that area as well. Who is becoming the major consumer of tobacco products as the western world is starting to diminish its consumption? It is the developing countries. We are doing incredible promotional work—not we ourselves but the industry in general—to promote the use of tobacco worldwide as a product in developing countries where it has never been the practice in the past.

Anybody who is involved in the Nestle's arguments about what we were doing in that area feels we are doing something even more reprehensible in terms of our overmarketing of that product in those areas. Why should we say our health is worth protecting and yet say we should

be doing and participating in a major promotion of those kinds of products in the rest of the world?

I really do not think there is an easy means of having it both ways in this issue. If the Liberal Party and all parties in this House agree that smoking is a hazard to our health, and I do not know anybody who is going to refute the kind of evidence that is out there now in the community, surely we should be cutting down on the amount of tobacco we are producing.

Do we want to export our cancer? I do not think we do. I do not think that is the role we want. At the same time, we cannot have our farmers unprotected. If we take off the taxes and use that as a means of encouraging people to smoke again and to smoke more, it will help the tobacco industry but it will do nothing on the other end.

What we have to do is find ways of making sure that farmers, in the production of food crops that are important to the people of this country, make enough money so they can live a good and decent life in Ontario. Nobody should be suffering as this transition in consumption here in this country, which we should all be pleased about takes place.

I would encourage all members of the House to understand that we cannot have this both ways. These people must be protected.

Mr. G. I. Miller: How do we compete with the Americans? Their tax is eight cents on a pack. You are just encouraging us to go across the border and get them—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member is suggesting that what we should be doing is to take examples from there?

Mr. G. I. Miller: —and discouraging tourists coming here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My God, if we come down to the point where we are basing our tourist industry on the capacity for people to come here to buy cheap cigarettes, I would suggest we are in a very dangerous kind of position altogether.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Cheap cigarettes and liquor. Why should you tell me if I can smoke or not?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I should not be involved in a debate. You should be calling me out of order. Please do.

The Acting Speaker: Do not be distracted.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will merely sum up by saying I believe there is a crisis, which means we have to give income protection and new crop promotion assistance to those farmers who are being affected by this turndown. At the same time, we should welcome the fact that people are

not smoking as much and that the cost to and burden on the health of our society and the damage it does to individual families are lessening in our society. We should be very proud of that.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join in this debate. I am also very pleased the member for Haldimand-Norfolk and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk brought it forward.

I do not think there can be any question that the plight of our tobacco farmers in the tobacco belt south of my riding is in an emergency situation. I have had an increasing volume of tobacco farmers and their families contacting me in the last number of months, as I am sure the other members in the area have, with a great deal of concern.

I certainly recognize and agree with some of the comments made by my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), but this is a very delicate area. My primary concern at this point is for the welfare of many thousands of families who are engaged in this industry in our province. To a degree, I would make a distinction between the health concerns we have, which are very legitimate, and the immediate welfare of the tobacco farming families.

I would suggest it would be quite different for government, either at the federal or provincial level, to take a strong policy stand on the question of smoking and the health effects of smoking. It is quite another thing to let a very vital agricultural industry in our province suffer or be snuck out the back door because of neglect or taxation policy.

The numbers are very impressive. I have a file here of correspondence from farmers and people in the industry. We are talking about an agricultural industry that every year produces more than \$1 billion in wages and salaries either directly or indirectly, \$700 million in business income, \$2.4 billion in government revenue—federal and provincial—and many thousands of person-years of employment.

12:10 p.m.

It is an interesting turn of events. When times are good, the tobacco industry is very lucrative. Traditionally, some of the most prosperous farmers in Brant county, and I think in the neighbouring county, have been tobacco farmers. When they started to write to me, and I started to hear about the plight of these farmers in the last couple of months, I was surprised because we have come to think of those people as very industrious, prosperous and stable farmers.

That situation has darkened to a tremendous degree in the last number of months.

I might quote briefly from one of the letters I received from a farmer after I replied to his letter indicating I would bring this matter to the attention of the Treasurer, that I would be speaking to the Treasurer about my concern that we not further overburden the tobacco industry with taxation in our next budget:

“Dear Sir:

“I have read your letter of January 23, 1984, and in your letter you state that our provincial government has a strong record for assisting Ontario tobacco farmers, including crop insurance, seasonal housing assistance for farm workers, the tax exemptions on goods purchased by farmers and the farm tax reduction program.

“All of these programs surely help us and we are grateful to our government. However, if the tobacco industry is increasingly taxed to death and, consequently, we as a family farm are forced into bankruptcy, the aforementioned good programs will be of no use to us.”

We have reached a crisis point. I do not think the reduction in tobacco sales can be traced solely to taxation policies, although I think it is a large factor. We see a decrease in the sales of cigarettes. Some three billion fewer cigarettes were sold in 1983 compared to the previous year, a decline of about five per cent.

Another problem is the importation of tobacco. On Wednesday night of this week I met with the Brant County Federation of Agriculture. I know my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk talks with them on a regular basis. They told me they find it very difficult to understand how they can compete with tobacco being imported from Third World countries and South America where farm workers are paid an average of \$38 per month. I believe that is the figure I heard. We live in a civilized country and we do not pay our farm employees \$38 a month; we try to pay them a living wage. Our farmers are finding it very difficult to compete.

I am pleased that my colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food went to Britain to try to do some spade work with the large companies there that provide part of the market for the crops of our farmers. I hope and pray his mission meets with some success because, if we face a decline of \$114 million in this year's crop, as was stated in the Toronto Star the other day, we can say the effect will be catastrophic.

We are talking about an industry that employs an estimated 15,000 seasonal workers in Ontario and includes more than 800 individual farmers.

As a student, I worked in tobacco several summers. It is common for the young people in my riding who may not be able to find employment in the industries in Brantford to go to farms in Haldimand-Norfolk and Brant county to work on the tobacco crop. Those opportunities are important.

I might add we have to keep in mind that every dollar earned by those students is helping to put them through school and is saving us money on government grants and loans to those same students. It is important to our local economy in Brant county, and even to the people of Brantford who are not directly involved in the industry, because we have a policy in our Brant county social services that able and willing people who are drawing social assistance will be asked to go out and work in the agricultural industry during the summer months. A large number report for work at the farms in our area, particularly the tobacco farms.

Tobacco farming is very labour intensive. It takes a lot of people to work at a certain point of the season in planting, then in getting all the irrigation equipment in place and, finally, for the picking of the leaves and getting them into the areas for curing and so on. It is a labour-intensive industry, a very important industry. A further decline in it would have a very negative effect on the economy of my riding of Brantford, both on those involved directly in the industry and those who are not.

Tobacco farmers have approached me, asking a number of questions, such as whether they should be circulating a petition among their communities about the level of taxation. I said to them they certainly should. The voices of these people have to be heard by this Legislature and by the Treasurer as he considers his next budget.

They also asked whether they could expect any relief from the level of taxation, which they feel is one of the overriding negative effects on their industry. I have made the case to the Treasurer that I think we have reached a point of diminishing returns. I really do not see the benefit in tobacco taxes being further increased this year because, if sales continue to decline, one does not have to be a very bright mathematician to figure out the revenues will decline. When that point of diminishing returns is reached, then the increased taxation serves no purpose for the taxpaying public and it certainly serves no purpose for the industry.

As a government we have to respond to the very legitimate concerns of this very important agricultural issue. I urge my colleague the

Minister of Agriculture and Food, to keep up his efforts on their behalf, to listen to the tobacco farmers and to go where he is required to assist them. I will also continue to urge my colleague the Treasurer to take this very serious issue into consideration as he prepares his next budget.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I guess I am probably the only ex-tobacco grower here. In my younger days I grew a fairly large acreage of tobacco, both burley tobacco and black-fired tobacco. I think I know a bit about the industry.

In my part of the country, in Kent-Elgin, it is quite an important industry. In the two townships of Aldborough and Dunwich, in particular in Aldborough, it amounts to about \$55 million at the farm gate. That is for the flue-cured tobacco or Virginia-type tobacco, the same type that is grown in Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and the Haldimand-Norfolk areas.

In Kent county we grow a small acreage of burley tobacco. The farm gate value there is just a little under \$3 million. There is also a small acreage of black-fired tobacco. This is the type of tobacco that is used in chewing tobacco and is used by people in industries where cigarettes are a fire hazard. In some of the mines and in industrial situations where people are going to use tobacco regardless of whatever prohibitions there might be on it, black-fired tobacco is used as a chewing tobacco. I guess baseball players are one of the big users of that type of tobacco.

12:20 p.m.

Burley and the black tobacco are grown on rather small acreages, that is by people who have three or four acres, with one or two exceptions. There are some people who have 30 or 40 acres, but I can think of only one operator. In most cases it is not the larger part of their operation. They do have other crops they can fall back on. Nevertheless, on some of the smaller farms, people who are earning a good living on a 50- to 75-acre farm are able to make use of family labour. A good deal of this labour is in the wintertime when they are grading the tobacco. Those families can maintain a family farm on a reasonably small acreage because they have a tobacco allotment. With the loss of these markets, it would appear these people are threatened not only with the loss of their tobacco acreage but also with the loss of the economic viability of their farms.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment you on allowing this debate. It is a very difficult debate for all members because there are a great many moral, ethical and emotional factors involved. I compliment you on having allowed this to go forward and enabled us to put the problem

squarely before the people of Ontario and, perhaps more important, to speak honestly to the tobacco growers so they have some idea of where they are going.

A good deal of mention has been made of alternative crops that can be grown on that land. I am familiar with a good many of those alternative crops, because most of them are in the horticultural realm. People speak rather easily about growing tomatoes on that land. I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food knows that over the last 30 years the processing tomato industry has grown considerably. It grew in Prince Edward county to quite an extent at one time around Quinte. It has grown in all the counties along Lake Erie to Kent and Essex. Today about 80 to 90 per cent of it is in Kent and Essex because the industry has gone towards mechanization with very large acreages. People have 80 or 90 or even as many as 200 acres on which they employ a harvesting machine that costs about \$150,000 today.

The types of soil tomatoes are now grown on are heavy, clay soils; they are not the light, sandy soils. They are grown to some extent on sandy loam soil in Kent and Essex, but these are much heavier soils than one would grow tobacco on. I do not see that there is much of an opportunity there for tomatoes. Again, one has to look at the weather in that area; they do not have the heat units by a good shortfall.

Asparagus is one of the crops that are mentioned. The government of Ontario has put a good deal of money into the planting of asparagus roots and promoting the use of asparagus. We are going to know the results this year because many of these plantations of asparagus are coming into their first harvest. It has to be proved yet whether we have the varieties that will withstand our climate and whether we have the market to carry all that asparagus.

One of the biggest growers in Ontario is in my county. He grows 200 acres of asparagus, and he will admit that in recent years it has been quite unsuccessful. Asparagus is a rather strange animal. It will poke up an asparagus tip early in April or May. If that tip gets frozen, it sends a message to the root to go into hibernation for the rest of the year. One would think that other spears would come up and one would have a crop minus only that first spear; but if that first spear is frozen, that is largely the end of the crop.

This grower is having yields of about 1,000 pounds per acre on one of the most productive farms in Ontario because it is also a farm that is

very large in beef production. They have great soils and manures for growing asparagus, but it has not been a great success, and they will admit that.

Peanuts are a marginal crop. We hope we have all the success in the world, but one has to realize that the natural home of that crop is down in Georgia. As with so many of the crops we are growing in Ontario in the heat-loving area, we are really marginal. I hope we can find varieties, but simply to say we can turn tomorrow to peanuts is not recognizing the facts.

We talk about melons. We do not grow enough melons in Ontario to supply the market. It takes about 80 to 90 days from planting time to grow a good-quality melon. Planting time is no sooner than June 1, so that puts us into late September, particularly in the Norfolk area. In late September you do not have the warm days and nights; by that time you are getting a sour melon, and there is nothing worse in this world than a poor melon.

In Essex and Kent, melons are planted a bit earlier; there are more heat units, and they get the crop off in August. But even in those areas the tail end of the crop is cut off by imports from California, because as soon as you get the cool nights, the quality of that melon is gone and the trade turns to California items.

I think we need to level with our producers and tell them where they are. I sympathize with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, because I do not think it is his fault except, as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has said, he has not been able to get his way in the cabinet.

The minister has been telling us about the attitude of these overseas buyers, and I well believe he is telling it as he sees it. I think anyone in business, especially in food products and agricultural products, knows a buyer is not going to discourage anyone from producing. They want as much competition as they can possibly get out in the production areas so they can buy it as cheaply as possible. They are not going to tell you: "We are withdrawing from this market. Go ahead and keep on growing it." What they are telling us is that we must be competitive.

We are facing here a situation that we face in manufacturing or in any labour-intensive endeavour, which is that the Third World countries are taking a good look at labour-intensive products and they are going to do a better and better job, as Japan has shown us in the last 20 years or so.

Mr. Wildman: I would not call Japan a Third World country.

Mr. McGuigan: It was Third World.

The Deputy Speaker: I point out to the member that his time has expired. Perhaps he can just wrap up quickly.

Mr. McGuigan: I think we should level with the growers and tell them where we are going. Clearly the message is being sent out with our taxation policies that the Ontario government is not in favour of their crop. We either have to tell them that or pull that tax back and deal honestly and fairly with them.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I enter this debate as one who, like most other members, is of two minds on this very difficult issue. Frankly, I had hoped that when we approached this topic in the House we would do it in a very serious way, perhaps as the honourable member who has just finished speaking has done, and not by throwing insults back and forth or by trying to make political points on a very serious issue that affects a lot of people.

Unfortunately, during question period we had epithets thrown back and forth. We had the Minister of Agriculture and Food indicate that this party was somehow in favour of state-owned, state-directed and state-controlled agriculture, which is unbelievably ridiculous. He knows that since the 1930s and 1940s this party and its predecessor have favoured marketing boards and an approach to agriculture and marketing based on producer choice and commodity decisions made by the commodity producers. While we would provide enabling legislation to allow producers in whatever agricultural commodity to decide to have supply management, we would not force anyone into it.

To have a minister who is doing what he apparently is now doing in the beef marketing industry accuse this party of being interested in state control and direction in agriculture is a bit much.

12:30 p.m.

Also we had the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk somehow respond to the suggestion made by the member for Welland-Thorold that we should be looking at alternative crops as if this was somehow an attack on the tobacco industry and this party wanted to destroy the whole tobacco crop. I really find that a little much to take as well.

All of us in this House must agree with the comments of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with regard to the reason for the increased taxation in this area. While politicians of all stripes make very serious arguments with

regard to the health dangers of cigarette smoking and use that as a reason for using taxation as a disincentive to people who might consider continuing to smoke or young people beginning to smoke, governments not just at this level but at all levels have seen tobacco taxes, just as they have seen liquor taxes, as a revenue producer, as a way of gaining more and more revenue in a field. They can be used to show that the governments are attempting to encourage good health in our economy and our society, but they are mainly interested in revenue.

For that reason, at the time the ad valorem approach was proposed by the government, this party opposed that because it was a blatant attempt to increase revenue without having to come before the House and indicate there would be an increase in taxation. That is an unfair and almost underhanded approach to increasing government revenue. For that reason, we opposed that.

Mr. Ruston: Very undemocratic.

Mr. Wildman: Yes. Facing the tobacco producers in Ontario is the question of their future. We appear to have serious changes in the market. From the material provided by the member for Haldimand-Norfolk, I see changes in what the processors are requesting from the producers. It says, "The processors have indicated they will want only 63.5 million to 65.7 million kilograms or 140 million to 145 million pounds this year, which is the smallest crop in 20 years." That is a drop of about one third from last year, and last year's was a very small crop. We have seen approximately 800 farmers leave the business and 8,000 farm workers lose their jobs.

It goes on to point out that it costs a good deal more to grow a small crop than it does a larger crop. Therefore, farmers who are still in the business but see their quotas cut will have additional costs and will need assistance from government to be able to survive in this business.

Why do we have this tremendous drop in the market? There have been a lot of suggestions raised. Frankly, I think one of the reasons is simply the recession. We have seen people in their own household budgets attempt to cut costs, and one of the ways of cutting costs is to cut out things that perhaps are not essential to their wellbeing. In some cases it might be perceived, as most of us would concede, to be detrimental to their wellbeing.

As well, we have seen what appears to be a long-term change in trend and lifestyle. A large number of people who are interested in good health and in improving their health are changing

their diet, concentrating on getting regular exercise by jogging and other means, perhaps cutting their alcohol consumption and changing from hard liquor to wine, and to light beer in the brewery industry and so on. Part of that is a change away from alcohol as well.

People in our society are interested in improving their health, and for that reason they are moving away from tobacco. We see fewer people smoking. More people who have been smoking are quitting. Interestingly enough, although I do not have the figures before me, it appears that while more men in our society are discontinuing the smoking habit, there are some indications that more women are smoking. There are also some indications that teen-age girls are beginning to smoke in greater numbers and at earlier ages.

Having said that, overall there appears to be a trend away from products that are perceived by the general public as detrimental to health. One of those products is tobacco. All of us must recognize that. Certainly the cost of the product has a bearing, but it is not the only reason people are not smoking as much, especially, it appears, among the male population.

The cigarette manufacturers seem to be recognizing this trend and are doing all they can to diversify their investments. They are moving into many other fields, such as the beverage industry. They are moving into fields that are completely unrelated to what might be considered to be lifestyle products, such as manufacturing and so on, because they believe that to protect their investments and ensure their profit picture for their investors, they must diversify. For that reason, I believe the tobacco farmers, those who are producing the raw product, must also recognize there is a need for diversification.

I have heard the arguments raised by other members about the problems with regard to the types of soils and the crops that might be viable in those areas. I am not interested in seeing farmers go back to the situation they experienced in the 1930s, but we as a government, and they as producers, must recognize the need to diversify to protect their future.

For that reason, we must do all we can as legislators, and the government must do all it can as a government, to encourage research into and the development of new and better types of crops that can be grown by these farmers so they will have a future and so the rural communities in which they live will remain viable and people will have a profitable future.

I hope all of us will approach this debate with the seriousness it deserves and not just attempt to make political points against one another.

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a remark to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and the member for Scarborough West. The member for Algoma mentioned the health kick, that people are conscious of their health. The member for Scarborough West mentioned the question of doubling the tobacco tax to discourage people from smoking.

Surely we have some choice left in this province. Surely obesity is also a rather large health problem. Surely the member for Scarborough West is not suggesting the government get on to the tables of the province and start taxing food or going into rationing with regard to the diets of the people of Ontario. Surely there is choice as to what a person eats, and surely there is choice as to whether a person smokes.

This question is serious when one talks about one third of the farmers, about 800 farmers, going out of business. My friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) referred to jobs. When we talk about jobs in tobacco farming, we are talking about a lot of university and college students who rely on the wages they earn in tobacco farming to go back to school and without which they will not go back to school. A lot of the high school kids rely on the wages to put food on the family table. Working in tobacco farming is one of the few ways a lot of families in Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin can actually get off unemployment and welfare.

12:40 p.m.

We are also not talking about the support industries, all those industries that provide chemicals, build kilns, provide fertilizer—all those other support industries. They are going to be laying off heavily. In the Tillsonburg paper they are already talking about layoffs with this coming up in anticipation of this severe cut.

My friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk also mentioned closing at least one tobacco barn. When you talk about a tobacco barn or a tobacco auction, you are not talking about a little thing; you are talking about a huge building with an awful lot of employees. For those who do not live in or near a tobacco community, maybe I could describe how the communities from the south of Oxford down to the lake and east and west 50 miles thereof rely on tobacco.

If you closed one third of the mines in Sudbury permanently, that is the same devastating effect this cut is going to have on the tobacco area.

Whole communities live and die with the tobacco industry. It pervades all parts of the community and all parts of their social and financial life. For example, the high schools in the south part of Oxford and down in Norfolk, Essex and so on do not start back at the same time in the fall as the high schools do in the northern part of the county and in other counties; they start back late. The whole community adapts to the tobacco industry, right down to education.

Might I just talk for a moment about the average tobacco farmer. Back when I was practising and doing the odd tobacco farm—and I admit now I am a bit of a dinosaur in that—the average tobacco farmer probably had 100 acres and he probably had 40 acres of rights, so he probably grew 40 acres of tobacco. If you want to talk about ball-park figures, that is 100,000 pounds of tobacco a year.

The price of tobacco has fallen from \$2.50 to \$2.20 a pound to buy. If you are talking about a man trying to keep a viable, economic tobacco farm going with the cuts that have been coming all these years, down to 57 per cent last year—I am not talking about the cut coming this year—if he had tried to buy enough rights or enough quota to keep that 100,000-pounds-a-year tobacco crop and to keep his operation viable, he would have around \$700,000 tied up in quota alone. That is only the right to sell his tobacco; that is not the farm, the equipment, the kilns, anything else: \$700,000.

Right now the prices are falling. To go out and buy right now, it was \$2.50 but today it is \$2.20 and I understand they are making contracts now for \$2.10 a pound. It is falling. If anybody now tries to buy enough quota to offset this cut that is likely to come, from 56 or 57 per cent to 36 or 37 per cent, he is going to have to lay out \$200,000 to \$300,000 right now. I do not know how many of them are going to do that even if the bankers would allow them to.

What he is probably going to do is to chuck it and put his quota on the market to rent it out or try to sell it in a falling market; that means he is out of business and all those people are out of jobs. Or he can go out and rent rights, rent quota. Right now it is running at 65 cents a pound. If he goes out and tries to rent enough quota for this year alone to raise this crop to get up to the same 100,000 viable unit operation, he is going to have to lay out \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 or \$50,000 for this year alone.

If he like many others has had any tough luck in the past—and a lot have with the blue mould of three years ago and the freezing out two years

ago; a lot of them had a fair amount of tobacco flooded last year—he is probably in bad shape with his bankers; he probably has carryovers from year to year. It is very likely the banker is going to say: “No, we are not going to run with you for another \$40,000 this year. You are cut off.” Therefore, he is not going to go out buying that; he is simply not going to put in a crop. He cannot put in a crop of one third and expect to keep his operation going.

I would like just for a minute to compare our two ministers involved with the federal ministers. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has shown a lot of concern. Last month he was on a tour with me of the RJR-Macdonald tobacco plant. He was at the auction. We met with the tobacco board which was really concerned—exercised might be the right word—over what its members thought was going to be a cut from 205 million pounds to 190 million. Little did they think we were talking in terms of 140 million. They were very alarmed at that point. One can imagine the alarm in talking of 140 million pounds.

He met with them down there numerous times. He has been around there talking to them. The members have heard what he said about his efforts in England and elsewhere.

The Treasurer was meeting last week with people in the Haldimand-Norfolk area. This past Tuesday he was with the five wardens of the tobacco counties and region. The provincial ministers are out there hustling. They are out there trying to do something.

Let us compare the other two. There is the federal Minister of Revenue, who cancelled a meeting last Tuesday with the people on the tobacco board who tried to see him. The provincial Treasurer did not cancel out but the federal Minister of Revenue did. The Jolly Green Giant said: “Let them eat cake. I will do nothing for the tobacco farmers.” That was reported in the London Free Press. He said: “I will do nothing for them. Let them grow peanuts. Let them grow tomatoes.”

We have heard corn suggested today. Right now, peanut farming is in its infancy. Right now, harvesting equipment is such that farmers are not even sure of getting enough crop out of the ground, especially in a wet year, to break even.

Mr. Conway: What are we going to do about the provincial tax regime?

Mr. Treleaven: We are talking about what the federal regime is not doing at this point.

Mr. Conway: But we are provincial legislators.

Mr. Treleaven: Why do you people, as provincial Liberal legislators, not ask the federal Liberal legislators to emulate our two ministers who are trying to do something?

Mr. Laughren: You are the government. Just pass the buck.

Mr. Ruston: You never think of doing anything on your own.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Treleaven: Tomatoes; there is another one. It is great to think of putting tomatoes in, with the tomato paste coming in from Japan. Another thing about corn, if a farmer was really lucky and corn prices stayed up above \$4 a bushel, the farmer might net \$100 to \$150 an acre. With corn, there is no way these tobacco farmers can meet or even come close to the debts they are carrying at the bank. What it means is that they are going out.

Mr. Conway: What about the provincial tax regime?

Mr. Treleaven: The member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) and I have been badgering—and that is the fair word—the Treasurer not to raise taxes on tobacco products in this year's budget. I would ask the members across the House to also speak to their Liberal confreres in Ottawa to get them to cancel the 17 per cent tax they are talking about.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, until this contribution from the member for Oxford, the level of debate this morning has been of pretty high quality. In fact, I would say it was atypical of a Friday morning.

I would like to state for the record my personal concerns. I have a serious aversion to tobacco. I do not use it. I have even taken to rejecting the complementary cigars we get at the chiropractors' annual dinner. I was encouraged as a youngster not to smoke because I was advised it would stunt my growth. I took those admonitions very seriously.

I should say I had in 1959, unfortunately, a better reason to be concerned about smoking. That was the passing of my father, who died of lung cancer. He, in fact, had been a smoker. I accept the causal relationship without any equivocation.

12:50 p.m.

I would like to say for the record that as much as I have an aversion to smoking, I have an even more serious concern about Big Brother or big government dictating to people whether or not they can smoke. I accept the harsh facts of reality that people have smoked for many years, and despite whatever we may say, or how much

money we spend on advertising, unfortunately, people will continue to smoke.

What has become apparent to me during the course of this morning's debate is that the level of taxation we have in this province has absolutely nothing to do with any concern the government may have about people's health through the use of tobacco. The 163 per cent increase the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk made reference to today that has taken place during the course of the last four years has more to do with a greedy assault on the pockets of the taxpayers and smokers of Ontario than any other factor.

I think the government probably has in its possession some realistic forecasts about the use of tobacco in the future, and it is the government's aim not to lose one nickel of potential revenue from taxation due to the reduction in the amount of cigarettes sold and the reduction in smoking. Its aim is to enhance that. That is why we have had the 163 per cent tax increase we have seen in the last four years, the imposition of an ad valorem tax, and in last year's budget a tax upon a tax.

That more recent tax upon a tax has demonstrated, as far as I am concerned, the shallowness and the hypocrisy of this government. We are told they obtain \$533 million a year in tobacco taxation. That is over half a billion dollars. Of course, they are quite intent on maintaining that revenue.

The unfortunate thing is that at budget time the government never chooses to cut waste. It never chooses to involve itself in an introspective analysis of what can be done to make government more efficient, and what things could be cut around this place to reduce the ever-growing, insatiable appetite for revenue that seems to be demonstrated.

In the Toronto Sun this morning there is a forecast by the Treasurer. He has given the first indication that this upcoming spring budget will be a mean one and that it portends even higher taxes on the people. I suggest the cabinet and the government would be well advised to cut its advertising budget, which is now the highest in the country, spending some \$70 million in this province of 8.5 million people to assist in convincing them of the merit of their programs.

They could cut the growth of the subsidiaries—just the subsidiaries—of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. and we would be a heck of a lot better off. We might be well advised to divest ourselves of Suncor, or even do something as small as eliminating cars for the deputy ministers. I have always had the view that deputy

ministers are well paid for what they do and do not need cars provided at the expense of the taxpayers.

In the time that remains, I would like to encourage the Minister of Agriculture and Food to involve himself in some intelligent discussion with the Treasurer and the Minister of Revenue on the budget we anticipate in the near future.

We really should get the Treasurer to re-evaluate his position, at least on the tax on the tax, and to remove the sales tax on the tax. The members opposite voted for that tax. The member for Oxford and the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), who unfortunately is not in his seat, cannot dissociate themselves from the last budget. They voted for the budget. I stand to be corrected, but I believe both members voted for the tobacco tax issue.

It was not long ago that the Premier directed the very able member for Elgin to tour the Pacific Rim and visit Siam, Australia, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Fiji and all sorts of different places, ostensibly to promote Ontario tobacco. This, yet again, is an indication the government perhaps is committed to the sale of it. I see the member is not in his seat. I would have enjoyed hearing from him with regard to what kind of progress he obtained on his tour.

This recent growth of tax on tobacco has ironically contributed to a new development in purchasing preference by people. Statistics would indicate that many more people are buying paper and tobacco and rolling their own cigarettes. This, of course, does not give them the benefit of the recent advancements in terms of filtration to reduce and minimize the problem we have associated with the carcinogenic effects of the use of tobacco.

I would hope the urging of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and the continuing efforts that have been made by the member for

Halidmand-Norfolk on this subject would not go unheeded.

While I personally do not use the product, as I mentioned before, I realize there are at least 800 or 1,000 families in those areas who live primarily on the sale of the product. I accept the fact that the product will be with us probably for as long as I live. Indeed, there are some 15,000 seasonal jobs that flow from the sale of tobacco products and the multiplier effect from that economy is even greater.

I would submit the continued growth in tax that we have seen makes a mockery out of our six and five program and potentially spells disaster for people who are involved in that industry. It is inequitable to bring in that level of taxation at a time when we are telling people we would like to control the growth of their wages to a level of six and five per cent.

I do not know how any Treasurer could justify a growth of 163 per cent in taxes and a tax upon a tax. The responsibility of government is a great one. It certainly is not an easy task by any means, but with that power comes responsibility. I believe, at least in the context of tobacco taxes in this province—and perhaps I should even expand on provincial income tax on another occasion—at the very minimum, the conduct of this government has been absolutely, totally reprehensible.

When this next budget is tabled, if the punitive tax on the tax—just that tax alone—is not deleted from the budget, I hope the member for Oxford, the member for Elgin and the member for Brantford will stand in their places and vote against that budget at the appropriate time. In the interim I would expect, given their disposition and sense of responsibility, they would speak out against the budget.

The House adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

USE OF GOVERNMENT AUTOMOBILES

89 to 117. Mr. Peterson et al: Would the minister indicate whether the parliamentary assistant has access to government-owned, chauffeur-driven limousines and, if so, on what basis and conditions? [Tabled March 22, 1983]

Hon. Mr. Snow: Order paper question 339 which was placed by Mr. Foulds during the last session dealt with the subject matter contained in these questions. The queriers are referred to the response tabled in that regard. The answer remains the same.

BICENTENNIAL SPENDING

234. Ms. Copps: Would the Minister of Health advise the House of the cost of (1) special presentations to the new year's first babies at hospitals across the province, and (2) all moneys spent by the ministry in its celebration of Ontario's bicentennial? [Tabled March 23, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: (1) \$11,019.84, certificates and spoons; (2) \$45,000, Herbie Fund grant.

COST OF PUBLICATION

248. Mr. Breaugh: Will the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities list for the government publication Ontario, An Informal History of the Land and Its People, the cost of preparation, the cost of printing, the number of copies printed and distributed, and the cost of distribution? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Ontario, An Informal History of the Land and Its People: cost of preparation, \$63,030; cost of printing, \$780,000; cost of distribution, \$22,731; number of copies printed and distributed, 2.24 million.

PROGRAMS FOR JUNIORS

257. Mr. Allen: Will the Minister of Natural Resources table the estimated and actual program costs, the share of these costs borne by Ontario, and the number of participants in the junior conservationist award program and the Junior Ranger program during the fiscal years 1982-83 and 1983-84? [Tabled March 30, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope:

Junior conservationist award program

	1982-83	1983-84
Estimated program costs	\$83,000	\$88,800
Actual program costs	89,000	*
Number of participants	28	28

Junior Ranger program

	1982-83	1983-84
Estimated program costs	\$4,689,000	\$5,017,600
Actual program costs	4,757,730	*
Number of participants	1,736	1,708

*Figures not available at this time.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

258. Mr. Allen: Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the estimated and actual program costs, the share of these costs borne by Ontario and the numbers of participants in the student venture capital program and the winter Experience program for the fiscal years 1982-83 and 1983-84? [Tabled March 30, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Dean: Student venture capital program: estimated costs—1982-83, \$282,700; estimated costs—1983-84, \$439,000; actual costs—1982-83, \$270,000; actual costs—1983-84, \$420,000; number of participants—1982-83, 549; number of participants—1983-84, 1,079. One hundred per cent of the costs for this program are borne by the province of Ontario.

Winter Experience program: estimated costs—1982-83, \$4,750,000; estimated costs—1983-84, \$4,750,000; actual costs—1982-83, \$4,000,900; actual costs—1983-84*; number of participants—1982-83, 1,930; number of participants—1983-84*. *1983-84 figures will be available by late May 1984. One hundred per cent of the costs for this program are borne by the province of Ontario.

STUDENTS TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

259. Mr. Allen: Will the Minister of Labour table the estimated and actual program costs, the share of these costs borne by Ontario, and the number of participants in the STIR (students training in industrial relations) program during the fiscal years 1982-83 and 1983-84? [Tabled March 30, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The estimated program costs for the students training in industrial relations program in the fiscal year 1982-83

were \$124,400. The actual program costs were \$103,695.91.

The estimated costs for the year 1983-84 were \$114,200. The actual costs were \$106,253.88.

The total program costs for 1982-83 were borne by Ontario. The total program costs for 1983-84 were borne by Ontario.

The number of participants in 1982-83 was 33, and the number of participants in 1983-84 was 34.

JOB CREATION; SKILLS TRAINING

260. Mr. Allen: Will the Minister of Colleges and Universities table the estimated and actual program costs, the share of these costs borne by Ontario and the number of participants for each of the following job creation and/or skills training activities during fiscal years 1982-83 and 1983-84: critical trade skills training/ employer-sponsored training; general industrial training; Ontario career action program; TIBI-I; TIBI-II; and TIBI-III? [Tabled March 30, 1984]

Hon. Miss Stephenson:

Program	1982-83 costs (actual) \$000	1983-84 costs (estimated) \$000	Per cent borne by Ontario
CTST/EST	\$16,400	\$21,000	0
GIT	19,700	25,250	0
OCAP	17,800	19,800	100
TIBI-I	3,411	4,400	100
TIBI-II	5,000	7,000	100
TIBI-III	400	2,400	100

Program	Actual number of participants 1982-83	Estimated number of participants 1983-84
CTST/EST	4,234	8,175
GIT	8,616	11,275
OCAP	15,083*	17,656*
TIBI-I	33,594	49,000
TIBI-II	14,988	25,700
TIBI-III	1,618	3,800

*Includes carryovers from previous year.

261. Mr. Allen: Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing table the estimated and actual program costs, the share of these costs borne by Ontario and the number of participants for each of the following job creation and/or skills training activities during the fiscal years

1982-83 and 1983-84; involvement in municipal administration; Ontario youth employment program; and young Ontario career program? [Tabled March 30, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: All costs are borne by the province of Ontario.

	1982-83	1983-84
Ontario youth employment program		
Estimated payments	\$30,040,000	\$30,400,000
Actual payments	24,100,000	26,800,000
Employers approved	21,229	26,767
Employers claiming	17,530	20,772
Jobs approved	63,163	64,785
Jobs created	41,406	46,022
Young Ontario career program		
Estimated payments	—	\$25,000,000
Actual payments (estimated)	—	9,000,000
Employers approved	—	3,600
Jobs created (estimated)	—	4,500
Training in municipal administration (Includes involvement in municipal administration and Ontario municipal training program)		
Estimated payments	\$1,000,000	\$900,000
Actual payments	— IMA 840,397	776,564
	— OMTP 159,603	123,436
	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$900,000</u>
Municipalities approved	— IMA 243	267
	— OMTP 23	20
Student/graduate participants	— IMA 348	374
	— OMTP 23	21

INTERIM ANSWERS

1. Ms. Copps: Hon. Mr. Norton—The information requested relating to all Ontario public hospitals and public health institutions will require some time to complete. The information will be available on or about April 26, 1984.

2 to 88 and 118 to 233. Mr. Peterson et al: Cabinet Office—Answers to these questions will be provided on or about April 18, 1984.

236 to 247. Mr. Wildman: Hon. Mr. Ramsay—I am writing to inform you that answers to the 12 order paper questions noted above will be forthcoming on or about May 18, 1984.

249 to 256. Mr. R. F. Johnston: Hon. Mr. Drea—Answers to the above questions will be provided on or about May 4, 1984.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE; MANDATORY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Sessional paper 36, re equal pay for work of equal value and mandatory affirmative action.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Equal pay for work of equal value—The government has stated in the past that while it is in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, it is not convinced that this ideal can be completely achieved through legislation, given the difficul-

ties in comparing dissimilar jobs and the complexities of the labour market.

In our view, Bill 141 is a responsible move to address the wage gap problem. In broadening the basis for determining equality of work to allow a composite evaluation of the four factors—skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions—while continuing the requirement that jobs compared be substantially the same, the bill applies the equal value test to jobs that are capable of meaningful comparison.

While the government does not intend to amend Bill 141 to provide for equal pay for work of equal value as between dissimilar jobs, we intend to continue to monitor the situation following the passage of the bill to assess its effectiveness in addressing the wage gap problem.

Mandatory affirmative action—The government's commitment to affirmative action is demonstrated by the continuing progress that is being made in the affirmative action program in the Ontario public service. While there undoubtedly remains some distance to go, it is important to note that since 1978, the number of women has increased in 80 per cent of the employment groups in which they were under-represented and that the wage gap has narrowed by 2.2 per cent in the last year to 24.2 per cent.

In the private sector, the government is committed to promoting the adoption of affirmative action on a voluntary basis by urging the private sector to follow the government's example. It is to be noted that since 1975, 245 employers have been assisted by government consultants to develop affirmative action initiatives.

The Ontario women's directorate is currently co-ordinating an assessment of the government's affirmative action initiatives, including an examination of the nature and scope of activity by employers that receive public funds, such as school boards, municipalities, etc.

4-H CLUBS

Sessional paper 37, re continuing assistance to 4-H Clubs.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Providing direction to leaders and members:

To provide leaders with an opportunity for personal and skills development, input into programs and exchange of ideas, five regional conferences have been and are being held this spring for 700 leaders.

Formerly, two provincial conferences were held. These "closer-to-home," smaller conferences will enable more leaders to attend, provide them with a smaller forum in which to express their opinions and concerns and allow them to address, on a more local basis, those issues of interest to them.

Conference programs were based on leaders' suggestions as to what needs to be discussed and areas where they feel they need assistance. The Ontario leaders' committee, consisting of 20 leaders from across the province, and which met three times in 1983, had considerable input into the conference agenda—in fact, some of them are speakers—as well as into the changes they wanted to see in the 4-H program.

Members participate in provincial 4-H leadership camp, provincial 4-H conference and regional conferences across the province for 15-year-olds. At all of these functions, members are given direction on how to: work with other members and leaders; improve their local clubs;

assist and give leadership in their communities; conduct meetings; personal growth.

Conduct farm visits:

We assume the petitioners mean OMAF staff visiting members at home.

The ROS staff person will visit at least all first-year members. To give an idea of the time required to visit every member, there are 20,000 4-H members in Ontario. In just one particular county, for example, there are 380 members who could be visited over the summer.

We recognize the importance of members and their families getting to know our staff and vice versa, but the above figures illustrate the magnitude of what that entails.

Home/farm visiting has not been a consistent practice in the past. In some counties, all members were visited; in others, only first-year members, while in others, staff members visited only at the request of a leader or member.

Beyond those to first-year members, visits will have to be made by using a team approach, involving all field staff.

Adjudication of 4-H books and projects:

Staff will continue to approve and sign project books. As always, they will want input from the leader who has worked closely with the member and knows his/her potential.

The aims of 4-H are as they always have been: to instil a sense of accomplishment and self-worth in both members and leaders. We may use a somewhat different program setup to accomplish these goals, but we are not changing for the sake of change, nor in any way are we abrogating responsibility for the 4-H program. It remains a priority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, one to which we are firmly committed now and in the future.

Despite the importance we attach to 4-H, it must be remembered that ROS stands for Rural Organizations and Services, plural. 4-H is one of them. We also support other organizations, such as agricultural and horticultural societies, women's organizations, Junior Farmers, etc.

We are doing the best possible job with the resources available. We ask only that all leaders co-operate, be open to change and be willing to discuss their concerns with members of our staff.

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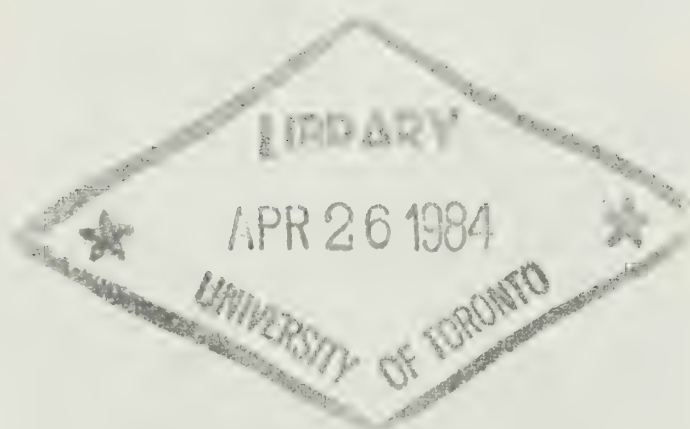
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, April 16, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 16, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1985, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. Signed, John Black Aird, Toronto, April 16, 1984.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table information in response to questions asked of me on April 5 by the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) and on April 6 by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

See sessional papers 61 and 62.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

LAKE ROSSEAU VILLAGE INN

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to the House on recent events affecting the operations of the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union Ltd. and a summer resort development in Muskoka known as the Lake Rosseau Village Inn.

Since much of the information available is based on preliminary and hearsay reports, I wish to emphasize that we should avoid reaching any hasty conclusions. The matter is being investigated by the Credit Union Central of Ontario, by my ministry and, at the request of the central, by the Metropolitan Toronto Police force.

From the circumstances revealed to date, it would appear that the manager, the assistant manager and a director of the credit union may have been involved in significant irregularities with respect to loans, letters of guarantee, letters of credit and other debt instruments made or issued to persons and corporations involved with the development and promotion of Lake Rosseau Village Inn.

Specifically, it would appear that loans and lines of credit were made in amounts and to corporations, as contrasted with natural persons, in violation of the bylaws of the credit union. The bulk of this activity appears to have occurred since the latter part of February of this year and came to the attention of the Credit Union Central of Ontario because the central was extending a line of credit to the credit union.

An inquiry arising out of the apparent excessive amount of money required on the line of credit disclosed the irregularities in early April. In co-operation with the board of directors of the credit union, action was taken immediately to remove the manager and assistant manager and to have the administration of the credit union taken over by the central.

This action caused some concern for depositors in the credit union, but the chief executive officer of the central has given assurances that the credit union will continue to be operated on a business-as-usual basis.

On the basis of information obtained since the central took it over, the credit union has launched a civil suit in the Supreme Court of Ontario against 13 individuals, including the manager, the assistant manager, a director and some 15 corporations involved with the development or promotion of Lake Rosseau Village Inn. The suit claims damages from the manager, assistant manager and director for negligence, breach of duty and breach of trust, and it claims damages against these three and some of the other defendants for conspiracy to injure the credit union, as a result of which the union was induced to advance funds, and provide letters of guarantee, letters of credit and other debit instruments to the defendants.

This lawsuit, together with the withdrawal of lines of credit, has created serious doubts about whether the project will be completed. As the members have probably noted, some workers are concerned about their wages. However, until we have more information about the various loans, mortgages and other transactions, it is not possible to say how recent events will affect the construction contracts and the ability of the contractors to pay their workers.

There are varying media reports about the extent to which workers and contractors have not been paid. It is too soon to say whether an alternative source of funds may be available to the developers, as they have indicated. In any event, it is a matter between the workers and their employers, keeping in mind that the workers may also seek the benefit of the Construction Lien Act should they not be paid.

While the basic decisions affecting the relationship between the credit union and the persons and companies associated with Lake Rosseau Village Inn are being made by the Credit Union Central of Ontario, in its capacity as manager of the credit union, ministry officials are closely following developments. We will be reviewing the entire course of events to determine whether other action is necessary now or in the future.

As members will recall, the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act was amended last year to permit the restructuring of the relationships among the credit unions, the credit union leagues such as the central, the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp. and the ministry. The changes were designed to give the central a lead role in situations such as this, and we expect the central will be able to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Both the ministry and the central are interested in having the powers created under the new legislation effectively applied. We will, therefore, continue to work closely with the central and assist it wherever we can.

One area of the situation that is beyond the central's control is the sale of bookings at the inn for events that are advertised for this spring and summer. The promoters have stated that the moneys received for advanced bookings are being held in trust accounts. Pursuant to the Business Practices Act, we are requiring the promoters to qualify any information they give prospective customers, by explaining that the bookings may not be available because of the problems with financing that have recently come to light. We will also determine whether the funds are, in fact, being held in trust accounts, as stated by the promoters.

As I have indicated, there have been conflicting reports received to date and various other investigations are just getting under way. In these circumstances, I do not wish to draw any conclusions at this time that might subsequently prove to be inappropriate and that might interfere with any possibilities that may exist for this matter to be sorted out and put on a proper basis. I

will, however, report to the House when I have significant further information.

2:10 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LAKE ROSSEAU VILLAGE INN

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Revenue with respect to some of the information revealed by his colleague today.

How could he, as the responsible minister, allow the registration of a small business development corporation in this province in August of last year with respect to the Lake Rosseau Village Inn that was clearly in violation of the statute, i.e., subsection 12(1), the arm's-length provisions? How did the minister allow these people to register a small business development corporation in August, as reported in Maclean's today?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the article the Leader of the Opposition refers to, nor am I aware of the specific item he is talking about.

Mr. Peterson: I cannot believe the minister is so incompetent, very frankly; I cannot believe he would not be aware.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Let me go on. The minister registered a small business development corporation in August of last year. Is he aware—and if he was not, why was he not?—that in June 1983 his colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) was informed by letter that “the whole deal was nothing more than a scam”?

This was at least two months before the registration. Did he tell his colleague that this deal was seen as a scam by many people? Why did the minister go on and register that SBDC?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: As I mentioned earlier, I am not aware of the specifics. If the Leader of the Opposition would care to send me the details, I would be glad to look into the matter and report back.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister could tell us on what date he was first made aware of any concerns being expressed with respect to this development.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, at the present time I am not aware of any difficulties with this. As I said, I will look into the situation and get back to the member.

My friend from the third party and my friend from the opposition party are reacting to a news

report, and I am afraid I do not react as quickly as they do to the press. I will look into the matter and get back to them.

Mr. Peterson: When the minister is looking into this matter, would he figure out why the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) was informed last spring, in June, of a great number of irregularities with respect to the individuals involved? We know for sure that his colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade was informed in June that it was a scam.

Why did the minister not know? Would he find out why he was not apprised of information that his colleagues were apprised of? Would he find out how his ministry allowed the registration of an SBDC? I am not sure, but I believe \$1.5 million was advanced, and the government has a one-third share of that. Why was that allowed to happen under the minister's nose in violation of the statute?

Is the minister going to find out all that information and report back to the House tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I have repeated this three times, and perhaps if the Leader of the Opposition would watch my lips he will get the answer this time. I will look into the matter, discuss it with the Minister of Labour and get back to him.

GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing concerning his allocation of special assistance grants to municipalities.

Last week I had an opportunity to meet with his staff, and they indicated to me that eligibility for the program for special assistance was based on a composite of unemployment figures. Any reasonable, unbiased analysis of Windsor's unemployment situation for 1983 would suggest that it should have been included in the program.

Can the minister stand in his place today and tell us what possible justification the government had for not including Windsor in the special assistance program?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, just last week that very member came over to this side of the House and sat and discussed the situation in Windsor with me. We went through the process of how we came to the conclusion as to who would qualify and who would not qualify for the special grants from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

I explained to the member very clearly that one would have to have an unemployment rate, on average, of better than 14.5 per cent to qualify.

According to Statistics Canada, that figure was not achieved in the city of Windsor, and thank goodness it was not; they had a more positive position in their statistics.

We have since had some discussions with the member. People on my staff have reviewed with him exactly the position we have taken in determining the Statistics Canada figures as they related to Windsor, and I again emphasize that Windsor did not qualify for an additional grant.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister knows welfare costs place an extremely heavy burden on municipal budgets. Windsor has one of the highest per capita welfare case loads in Ontario. Windsor's average, taking it over the whole province and using the same types of figures, is 4.5 per cent. Hamilton-Wentworth is 3.6 per cent and Chatham is 2.3 per cent. That includes the municipalities that receive special assistance.

Since welfare costs relate directly to unemployment, the minister's criterion for special assistance, will he now admit he has made a mistake and grant Windsor its fair share of special assistance: \$700,000?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, it comes back to the same question asked by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye). We have reviewed it. We used the unemployment factor over the 12-month period. If the average did not exceed 14.5 per cent, the municipality did not qualify.

We did not start putting costs into the calculations that were from other areas of running a municipality. We took unemployment as a criterion, the average factor over a 12-month period, to determine those that would be eligible for special funding from the province.

I emphasize again we have reviewed it with his colleague, we have gone over the figures with him and, to the best of my knowledge, the accuracy of the determination by my ministry stands the test. There is no funding for Windsor at this time.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well, as my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) pointed out in his question on March 30, there is an ongoing dispute between Windsor and Statistics Canada with respect to what the real rate of unemployment is in the city of Windsor. Most recently, it is the very strong view that the rate is 17 per cent, even now, according to the official figures.

Given that the unemployment figures put out by Statistics Canada systematically under-represent the real problem with respect to

workers who have become discouraged, workers who are no longer able to look for work for a variety of reasons, and people who have withdrawn from the labour force, why does he not rely on a figure that is provincial, comes within provincial jurisdiction and relates to provincial statutes; that is, the welfare figures that would clearly qualify Windsor for the special assistance it obviously needs and deserves at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, if the member will look at the statistics he is quoting about the 17 per cent, I acknowledge that in the month of February 1983 the unemployment factor in the city of Windsor was 17.1 per cent. I am suggesting in this House this afternoon that the criterion we have used is an average unemployment factor of better than 14.5 per cent for the 12-month period, not taking any one month in isolation.

If the member has some dispute with Statscan, I invite him to go and argue with Statscan. We have used Statscan figures because they are taken to be the qualifying figures in this country. If there are some inequities, I suppose they apply both to those we have given some benefits and to others who might think they are not right, but we used Statscan figures last year and in previous years and we will continue to use them because we think they are the bona fide figures in this country.

Mr. Wrye: What this minister has said in the House today and what his officials told me last week are totally at variance. Let me quote a couple of statistics. This minister said Windsor had an unemployment rate, according to Statscan, of 13.3 per cent. Chatham had the same unemployment rate, Hamilton had an unemployment rate of 13.7 per cent. If the minister wants to use Canada Employment and Immigration Commission figures, because his people said they used them, Chatham and Windsor had the same 14.8 per cent.

Given that the minister will not release the criterion he supposedly used in coming up with this neat little formula, how can he stand in his place and say he reviewed the statistics when any review done by any objective observer would show that if Windsor did not qualify, and it should have, then Chatham would not qualify, Hamilton-Wentworth would not qualify and a lot of other municipalities would not qualify?

Why is the minister going ahead and misleading the House as if he is pretending this great, little deception is based on some objective formula?

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the honourable member would like to rephrase his question and withdraw the remark he so inadvertently made.

Mr. Wrye: Which word, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: You suggested the minister was misleading the House.

Mr. Wrye: He may be inadvertently leading us down a path that is not going to take us to the right answer.

Mr. Speaker: Just withdraw what you said.

Mr. Wrye: I withdraw the remark.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I thank the member. When calculating these positions in the past, it was on the very same criterion we used in 1984, based on 1983 statistics. They are the same criterion we used a year ago in determining the grant formula for special payments to various municipalities, including the member's.

As far as releasing the bureau statistics is concerned, he knows very well those statistics belong to the bureau. In our collaboration with them, they have asked this ministry to ensure that whatever they feed us stays here. The member knows a few fellows in Ottawa who might like to release them. We have made it very clear that we have used the same criterion in the past as in the current year. Last year it was to the member's satisfaction; this year it is not. I do not intend to start changing the criterion to accommodate Windsor or any other community.

GROUP HOMES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. It concerns the current controversy in North York about the establishment by the Reena Foundation of a number of group homes to house handicapped and disabled people who are currently residents of the Ark Eden Nursing Home. I am sure the minister shares the concern we in this party have about a great deal of distorted information and misinformation going around. It is causing fears and apprehensions which are not justified in the circumstances.

In the light of that strong feeling we have in this party, I would like to ask the minister whether he would agree to a meeting in which we would, on a three-party basis, draft a resolution supporting the establishment and the work the Reena Foundation is doing, supporting the principle of handicapped and disabled people being allowed to live in the community, and establishing the importance of all members of the

Legislature going on record as stating very clearly their views about the importance of allowing handicapped and disabled people to live in the community like everybody else. Would the minister agree to the drafting of such a resolution and presenting it to the House?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I agree. I am not too sure I understand what the member is getting at, but I agree. Am I going to draft it or is the member? Who is going to draft it? I do not know.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister agrees that given the type of controversy that is going on in North York, there is a need for a clear statement, if nothing else, from this Legislature on the law that it passed and the intent of that legislation. Given the fact that most of the controversy and reactions of the community have been stirred up by unscrupulous people who have been spreading all kinds of lies about the nature of the group homes that will house handicapped people—in the community today everybody is saying that ex-convicts, prostitutes, and drug addicts will be in those group homes—does the minister not agree that it is incumbent on the government, as well as the members of the Legislature, to make quite clear that is not the case?

Does the minister not agree that it is very necessary to have a public information campaign in both languages so that people will know exactly what we are talking about and to prevent some people exploiting this unfortunate situation for political reasons?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I commend the member for his observations. I would just like to take this opportunity to clarify the record.

Part of the contractual agreement the Reena Foundation has with the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the four group homes that have been mentioned here today states very specifically, "The corporation"—that is, the Reena Foundation—"shall operate the houses as group homes for developmentally handicapped adults and children only and will not use the premises for any other purpose."

I trust the Legislature will be supportive of this, in particular because it is not exactly provincial legislation; it is a bylaw that has been passed by the city of North York.

Notwithstanding some peculiar allegations that have obviously been made by the misinformed, I should also point out that the Reena Foundation has conformed to provincial policy regarding community relationships, community consultations and community political consulta-

tions well in advance of any decisions being made to purchase or to close the offers to purchase on the existing four locations.

The question of the utilization and future uses of the home has been clarified before the Legislature for all time. In the light of the many sermons that have been preached in a number of churches over the last two weeks and in the light of the public stance taken by a great many people in North York, and in particular the rueful admissions by some that they have been misinformed, I hope the people who held up those signs on the lawn on Saturday would want to turn them around and do as people did in the municipality of Cambridge. When a similar home for young handicapped people was opened some months ago, the neighbours sent flowers.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, according to the group home manual, "Response to community concerns is an ongoing responsibility of group home operators and the ministries that license and approve them. If there is a concern or complaint, the normal procedure is to contact the operator directly."

Can the minister advise the House what commitment the ministry is prepared to make to ensure that funds and support are available to group home operators for public education as part of the process of settling into a neighbourhood? What commitment of a financial nature is the minister prepared to make?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the question. My ministry and the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development have drafted a number of rules, guidelines and procedures. If those procedures are followed—and in this case they were—I do not see a need for that type of thing unless there is an awful lot of bad faith, as there is in this case.

2:30 p.m.

In any event, I have been asked by certain people in the city of North York if the government would pay for a publication explaining group homes, and I have agreed. There is extra expense for translations as a result of the primary language of a number of people. The publication would be a very nonpartisan, straightforward account of just what a group home is and what a group home for the developmentally handicapped is.

The reason I have agreed to this request—and I do not want it to be a precedent—is that the people who live on those four streets have been lied to. As late as Saturday afternoon they were lied to again. Therefore, I can find very little personal fault with some of the reactions they have had.

I will take this extra step in this case, but I do not want to get into similar situations in the future. This is a case where people have obeyed the law and procedures, followed the guidelines and did what they are supposed to do. However, there has been an irresponsible element in the community spreading wild stories about this situation.

I want to make this very plain so nobody will try to read more into it than what I am saying. I am not talking about any political or any, in quotes, "responsible" elements in the community, but when irresponsible street yahoos spread wild and irresponsible stories and try to portray developmentally handicapped people as some kind of threat, then I will take action. Most of these people are handicapped from birth; most of them are so frail they cannot get out of bed. When they are portrayed as rape artists or some kind of threat, then I will publish the book.

I am not going to do it on every occasion. I think the honourable member understands that would only erode the very formal process that does take place.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, there are few times when I am in agreement here with the Minister of Community and Social Services, but I certainly am today. I agree with everything he has said.

Does the minister not think it might be a useful time now to look back to the report that was done for his ministry by the Longwoods Research Group Ltd. a number of years ago, filed March 1980? Because of the general attitude of the population towards group homes—that is, they were acceptable but "not in my backyard"—it recommended that it was time for a major public program. Such a program would promote general awareness of issues surrounding group homes and would convey the message that group homes strike the best balance between the needs of the community and the needs of the disadvantaged.

Would it not be a good time now to put some money into that kind of program, as was done in mental health situations in the past by the now Treasurer (Mr. Grossman)? Would this not be a good time to put some money out there in multilingual fashion so the whole of society can start to respond in a positive way to this issue?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, for the past couple of years, in municipality after municipality across this province, this sort of thing has been going on. Various groups that have been involved by the local councils or planning boards have been hearing delegations and have been actively involved in a consultation process as

each community has developed its own set of regulations. Indeed, most of them have developed their own bylaws.

I really think the time for publications and booklets, with the exception of some specialized matters, has come to an end. By and large, now that municipalities have produced their bylaws, have had full and frank consultation and have discussed the matter with community leaders and so forth, the time for direct action has come. If it turns out there are going to be more of these and that a neighbourhood, innocently enough, can be incited, then I suppose we will have to take a look at it. Frankly, I think this particular episode, bizarre as it is, is about the last one in the province.

BRUCE ENERGY CENTRE

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a very different note, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Energy. The minister will no doubt recall the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program which was announced just prior to the last election. He will also no doubt recall that one of the principal programs announced together with the BILD program in January 1981 was the so-called Bruce Energy Centre, which was announced on January 27, 1981.

The minister will know it was not only announced on January 27, it was also reannounced on March 4 by the Premier (Mr. Davis), who was on tour of the greenhouse at the Bruce Energy Centre and said he was "delighted to participate" in what he described as a "major advance in Ontario's industrial and energy future." He said they were "making progress"—I am quoting because it was an election tour and it is always interesting to remind people of what they said during election time—"a progress which allows us to initiate the next major advance in the development of the Bruce Energy Centre."

The minister will know the next major advance was the construction of the steam line which was to service a number of smaller industries that were to be located in the area. Can the minister explain why, three years later, that steam line has never been built. Can he explain why somewhere in the area of nearly \$13 million of BILD money that was supposed to have been spent and allocated to create jobs in the Bruce Peninsula has not been spent and allocated? Nothing has been done. I wonder if the minister can explain this extraordinary turn of events since the program was announced with such

flurry and fanfare by the Premier on March 4, 1981.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question in that it is the first time I have heard him or his party give some recognition to the good things the government is doing in the Bruce Peninsula.

I would want to caution the honourable member because I think it is important in this debate on this particular subject to keep some perspective on where we are going in terms of the industrial development in the Bruce Peninsula. If he is encouraging the government to go ahead and construct the pipeline and waive the basic principle that was put in place when BILD committed its funds for the pipeline, if he is asking us to waive that principle, which basically says a customer should be secured for the steam at the end of the line, then perhaps he should say so.

Mr. Rae: The minister cannot really be serious. The government announced a project three years ago in the middle of an election campaign and he is announcing today in the House the conditions under which the project will be undertaken.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Why did the government not announce those conditions just prior to election time? Why did the government not say the project may never be built if it cannot find the customers? Is the minister aware of the statements that were made by Mr. Harron, who is the former reeve of the township of Amabel and the chairman of the Bruce County Economic Development Committee, who said in 1979: "The tourism industry has become stunted as competition arose for skilled workers between Ontario Hydro and the indigenous furniture industry, which is causing most of them to collapse"?

The minister must be aware of the distortions in the local economy which have been caused by the Bruce energy projects announced and carried out by the government over the last decade. What is he now prepared to do to create jobs for the smaller businesses in the area? Instead of all this fluff and puff during election time, what is he really going to do for the area at a time when its unemployment rates are still high, when there are significant problems and when the farm economy is down? What does he really intend to do now, not just make election promises, for those people who are waiting for projects?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I am sure the honourable member would understand that the proposals to enlarge on the perspective of the Bruce Energy Centre and to bring some industrial development to the area were to address those problems of the down-phasing of the construction cycle on the nuclear system. At this point, I want to assure him that my colleagues and I are going to give every consideration to how we can best address that problem.

However, I also want the member to be aware that this is a government that attempts to exercise some prudent consideration in the expenditure of tax dollars and that indeed there are problems with unemployment not only in the Bruce but also throughout other parts of the province.

Mr. Rae: You mean Davis could not do it?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the minister was premature in his announcement of the great and wonderful things that were going to evolve from this whole situation, has he since done the kind of research that would give us any cause to believe what he is telling us, particularly some of the great and wonderful plans about the enormous greenhouses and other things that were going to be built in that area so we could have tomatoes in the middle of winter? What happened to all those grandiose plans he had?

Will the minister now get his feet on the ground and do something meaningful in the way of research so that he is doing something sensible in the future and not just speculating again at election time?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question as well, because it indicates the member for Niagara Falls has not had a full discussion with his caucus on this subject. I had assumed the members from the Bruce who represent his political stripe were supportive of this project. If the honourable member is telling me they are not, that is news to me.

Mr. Kerrio: They are supportive. What are you doing about it?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that during an election campaign the Premier painted a picture of fish farms growing into the future, greenhouses growing into the future and vast industrial parks growing into the future.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Two years later the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) and the Minister of Energy went into the same area and said exactly the same

thing, recycling the same fish farms, the same greenhouses—

Mr. Bradley: We are glad you have found the enemy now.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary, please.

Mr. Breaugh: That was a really good question.

Mr. Rae: I had not even got to the promises that were made by the president of Ontario Hydro when he said it was the next step. He said, "Our next step is going to be to go on building the steam line." My question to the minister is simply this: when is he going to take the next step and do something to provide jobs for people he has been making promises to now for three years?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered that question previously in saying the government is always prepared to address problems of unemployment not only in the Bruce but also throughout this province.

ELMIRA LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The ministry's decision to allow construction of new sewage facilities at the Elmira sewage treatment plant without giving due consideration to the dangerous wastes of Uniroyal Ltd. and the old town dump adjacent to the plant is a major error in judgement.

The Uniroyal plant is one among a handful in Canada that generated the deadly dioxin, 2,3,7,8-TCDD, during production of Agent Orange and other herbicides. Waste from the production of chemicals at Uniroyal during the past 20 years is spread over all the property, and some of it may lie in the old municipal landfill.

Why did the ministry not take the proper precautions before allowing renovations at the Elmira sewage treatment plant to proceed? Why, according to Mr. Michael Ning, engineer for the onsite consulting firm of Walter, Fedy, McCargar and Hachborn, did the ministry not inform the firm about the problems?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions in what was almost a statement the member for Waterloo North made with respect to the sewage treatment plant and the Elmira site. First, let me tell him that Elmira probably is one of the most sensitively monitored sites in all of Ontario.

The honourable member mentioned that trace levels of dioxin were found in that site. I remind

him that they were in extremely low levels, not enough to raise the anxiety levels of the people who live in that area. Also, as I am sure he is aware, at this point we have dug a number of test wells in that area to trace any leachate that might occur from the site and to make absolutely certain the Elmira site does not contaminate the surrounding area.

In my view—and I will check it further, because I am sure the member is asking the question in a very serious fashion—the ministry has taken every precaution. I say that to the member as openly and fairly as I know how. However, I will check into the matter further and investigate the allegations he is making to see whether there is any justification for some of his comments.

At the same time, I want to share with the member the fact that we have a very strict monitoring program on the Elmira site. We recognize there are problems with that site, and in no way, shape or form am I going to attempt to tell the member we do not have some difficulties there.

We are still looking at ways of cleaning up the Elmira site. The member knows, and I have shared with him, some of the options that are possible, such as purge wells or capping the site to stop any leachate from moving offsite. However, I will look into his question further.

Mr. Epp: The minister indicated that monitoring was going on, but that does not preclude the fact that the engineering firm involved in building the sewage treatment facilities was not informed of the problems in a \$1.5-million or \$2-million project.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Epp: Between two and 2,000 parts per billion phenols were found in the ground water under the sewage treatment plant site. Over a 20-hour period during March 19 and March 20 a total of 2.5 million litres of phenol-contaminated water was pumped from 50 wells on the site into the Canagagigue Creek, which runs into the Grand River. Guidelines allow for only one part per billion in drinking water, yet 10 parts per billion of phenols were found in the creek and six parts per billion in the Grand River alone.

Since phenols are usually an indicator of other organic chemicals present in the ground water, such as dioxins and trichloroethylene, will the minister not test for the full range of the Environmental Protection Agency priority pollutants? These tests, as the minister knows, are based on the EPA guidelines, which were adopted by his own ministry.

Will the minister not also agree it is essential that the purity of the water in the town of Elmira be protected? We do not want bottled water given to our residents, as is becoming the case next to a number of other dumps throughout Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I do not want to have some figures confused. First of all, I am sure the member is correct about the sampling of the levels with respect to some of the contaminants, although I will have to look up the figures. I think he mentioned six parts per billion. That was in raw water, untreated, and not in drinking water. The guidelines for the drinking water supplied to the residents of that area, to the best of my knowledge, are being met, so there is no problem with the quality of water in that area.

With respect to the member's earlier question in regard to the consultants, I have been advised further that a meeting has been held between the Waterloo region engineers and the consultants, so I think that covers off at least part of the concerns the member has raised about the lack of communication.

However, I have to say further that I cannot think of an industrial landfill site in the entire province that has received more publicity than the Elmira site. Surely a consultant who was going into that area would have some knowledge of that, even if our ministry in some way failed to discuss with him some of the details of the Elmira site, which I will look into. I would find it very unusual that he would not have at least some previous knowledge of some of the complications involved in that area because of the very substantive amount of public information that has passed back and forth on this issue.

All I can tell the member is that the site is being monitored accurately and on a regular basis now as a result of test wells that have been dug. There is a very limited amount of leachate offsite, which is not contaminating the drinking water. I want to assure the member that we are watching this site very carefully for any potential further migration of the pollution plume.

There is a pollution plume there, and we recognize that, but it is relatively well contained at the moment. If additional actions on the part of my ministry are necessary, I assure the member that those actions will be taken.

2:50 p.m.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware that at least 37 more bargaining unit employees as well as others in the office and a

substantial number on recall at the Hart and Cooley plant in Fort Erie have been notified that their jobs will be finished this summer. The employees, many with long years of service, seem to be the victims of another corporate takeover like Clevepak. Can the minister tell the House what steps he has taken to protect and re-employ these workers with long service?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, we will take the same measures we take in every closure that happens in this province. Our people will move in and meet with the parties concerned to try to work out the difficulties, provide retraining opportunities, provide counselling and make sure the workers are protected to the fullest as far as the severance benefits are concerned.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can the minister tell the House whether Torin Manufacturing (Canada) Ltd. in Oakville, where the work is being switched, received any government grants for the addition to the plant being put up to take in this work? Does the minister feel the company's position, that a maximum of up to 15 of the long-service employees might be able to transfer on the basis of their work record and qualifications, is fair to a work force with that kind of service and seniority?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: To the best of my knowledge, there is no government money in that operation. I am in the process of checking that matter out. As far as the 15 employees are concerned, we will be holding discussions with the company. We like to think we may be able to improve that circumstance.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I am glad to see him back. The minister will recall that during the availability day he had in Hawkesbury earlier this year he was presented with a brief from the Hawkesbury town council requesting emergency assistance from the government. The brief was also presented to the Liberal task force two weeks ago.

The brief explains how the closure of the CIP plant resulted in the loss of \$309,000 in taxes annually and that taxes this year will increase by \$175 per household, coupled with an increase of 40 per cent in water and sewage rates to maintain the repayment of the present sewage treatment plant. Did the minister read the brief that was sent to him? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, yes, I do recall the brief. I have had many talks with the mayor of that community in relation to the brief.

Indeed, the honourable member should know that some of the things we have been able to accomplish in Hawkesbury over the last period of time have been because of a good mayor who has had a fairly good relationship with this government and with the various ministries of this government.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I know he is your candidate, but answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: He must be a good Tory.

Mr. T. P. Reid: There is no such thing as a good Tory.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: As I have said already, we have met with the mayor and his council to review the situation. As the member knows, there were some special transfer payments to try to offset some of the ills that came about as a result of the closing of the CIP plant.

I have never said, nor am I about to say today, that every time a plant closes in the community the government is going to be in a position to pick up the entire difference in the taxes that were payable by that plant, but we certainly have gone a long way.

The mayor knows very well, as do many others, that at this very moment the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and those in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics of this government are still trying to work on a formula that will try to afford to the community of Hawkesbury and others some relief for the water and sewer charges that have come about because of their desire to have a better water and sewer system and the fact that the cost incurred has been greater than they originally anticipated.

We understand that situation very clearly, but we must find a formula that treats the people of this province in an equal and fair way.

Mr. Boudria: That is very nice, except it does nothing for the people of Hawkesbury who pay the taxes right now.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Boudria: The town also needs \$500,000 to acquire its water pumping station because it is located on the CIP land. They need \$700,000 to recover from the loss of revenue, and they have told our task force they are in dire need of \$750,000 to replace the defective sewer lines in the east end of town. What does the minister want them to do, go bankrupt?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The one thing this government can take great pride in is that we

have never allowed our municipalities to go bankrupt and we have helped them to improve—

Mr. Boudria: Do not allow it now. Get moving now.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Let him do a little yelling. All he is going to be doing after the next provincial election is yelling in an empty barrel.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

RADIATION STANDARDS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that the US Environmental Protection Agency office of radiation programs produced a report entitled Proposed Federal Radiation Guidance for Occupational Exposure, which concluded that a worker exposed to the current whole-body standard of five rems per year faces 2.5 times the risk of death faced by workers in the mining industry, an industry that is considered the most dangerous work place?

If he is aware of that, is he prepared to lower the whole body exposure limit to 1.5 rems per year for at least 50 per cent of the workers who are exposed to radiation in the work place who are under provincial jurisdiction? This limit has been met in the United Kingdom. Is the minister prepared to move in that direction?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the study the honourable member is referring to, but I will make myself aware of it very shortly.

On March 15, 1984, I wrote a rather detailed letter to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) outlining the position of the provincial government. Attached to it were proposed amendments to the Atomic Energy Control Board regulation concerning dose limitation. I really cannot provide any additional information to what I have already given to him about the government's position.

Mr. Wildman: In the letter to which the minister referred, he talks about the International Commission on Radiation Protection proposals, at which the Atomic Energy Control Board is looking. It deals with the change from whole-body exposure to specific-organ exposure limits. That is not what I was referring to in my question. Since the minister has raised that, is he aware that the ICRP not only is talking about changing in the limits to single-organ exposures but also is talking about establishing a lifetime dose limit

for workers, something the AECB has not accepted?

Is it also true that the AECB has not at all addressed the dosimetry problems for monitoring exposure levels for workers? If that is the case, why is he just depending on the AECB? Why does he not move in the area over which he has control, the jurisdiction in the medical field for workers who are exposed to radiation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I will be happy to look into the matter the member has raised today. I will confer with my senior officials in the radiation division. I do not take this matter lightly. The member is raising some valid concerns.

APPOINTMENTS TO POLICE COMMISSIONS

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. He may recall that last week I raised a couple of questions concerning what I call the politicizing of the police commissions across this province by political appointments of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Will the minister confirm or deny that we are receiving word both from our members and some of the municipalities that he is not only politicizing these people with his own appointments but also is disregarding excellent recommendations these municipalities are making, turning those recommendations down and not paying any attention to them and is only appointing political people from his party?

3 p.m.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, we receive information from many sources in regard to appointments to the police commissions. Indeed, when the honourable member labels those people as he does, many of those appointments happen to be members of the judiciary.

I need not tell the member that most of those people who sit on the police commissions are appointed by the federal government to those judgeships. We sometimes appoint them to the different police commissions and sometimes we do not.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. O'Neil: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Last week when I raised that question I realized—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, since the minister is one of the chief law officers of Ontario and since he is telling me that he bases these appointments not on the politics of the appointees but on their integrity and everything else, I may say we have a lot of people such as that in my riding, too. I am talking about the political appointments the minister is making over and above the recommendation of good people.

Would the minister be prepared to open his files to our research staff to see on what basis he is making those appointments? Are there letters from the Progressive Conservative associations?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: On the matter the honourable member concerns himself with, last week he labelled all the appointees as political hacks. I am willing to accept whatever label he wants. He has to expound upon and explain that at some point.

I do not know the political backgrounds of the people who are appointed to these positions.

Mr. O'Neil: Oh, come on.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. O'Neil: The minister has letters from every Tory organization in Ontario; every one.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I receive recommendations from honourable members on all sides of this House, from different mayors, from different community groups and from individuals. I receive applications from individuals personally. I receive recommendations from others members, from police chiefs and from numerous people throughout Ontario. Indeed, on this matter I had great pleasure in appointing a woman. I notice that some honourable members' constituents think we do not appoint enough women to the police commissions; on that one we did.

I might add that having received applications and recommendations from many people, indeed after passing legislation in this Legislature increasing the number of appointments to the different boards, I did not receive a recommendation from or even any interest on the part of that honourable member regarding his police commission.

Mr. O'Neil: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: As I said last week, I do not believe a person such as myself should be involved in the appointment of these people. They should be appointed by the municipalities.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment regarding the

Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. The commission was supposed to be making its report and recommendations last year. We just recently had the third extension of the due date of that report.

Can the minister tell us whether the moneys allocated in his budget this year reflect another full year's operation by the commission and whether we can expect to see a report from that commission, and when? We have been waiting for the report for a long time.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, there are really two questions. One is with respect to the terminal date for the commission study and the second is on the amount of money and the funding in this current year. I will take both questions under advisement and report back to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, since the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Attorney General have allocated well in excess of \$10 million for this, the longest royal commission in the history of the province, and since its terms of reference were so vital to social and economic development, particularly north of the 50th parallel, does this minister not think we should have had a report from this commission so that we could get on with economic and social planning, particularly for our first citizens, north of the 50th?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I could agree in part with what the member is suggesting. The time that has passed with respect to the report is certainly longer than anyone anticipated, but the report and the complexity of the matter is somewhat more detailed than was earlier assumed.

I can only tell the member that I will consult further with my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) on the matter and try to get back to him with some specific answers at the earliest opportunity.

MILK PRICES

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food, which I believe will also be of interest to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie). It relates to milk prices in northern Ontario. It is a two-faceted question.

The minister has not responded to my letter in regard to assisting the milk producers in northern Ontario who are facing higher costs in transporting fluid milk to the processors. Not only is it costing the farmers of northern Ontario more, but

it is also costing the consumers more by 30 or 40 cents on a half gallon or litre of milk.

What action is the minister prepared to take, now that the other operations like the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and so on have not been able to deal with this problem, to protect both the producers and the consumers in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member would want to complete the package of information he has just laid before the House and say that the producers in northwestern Ontario also receive more per hectolitre of milk produced than do producers in other parts of the province. That has been done over the years by the milk marketing board to attempt to recognize the differences in the cost of production in that area.

Mr. Kerrio: Why do you have beer prices the same across the province? That is ridiculous. Beer prices are the same across the province and you can't have the same for milk.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I take it I am now hearing a new policy from across the way—

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —that they would dictate to the dairy producers of this province—

Mr. Kerrio: I didn't say that at all.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is exactly what the member is saying, that he would dictate to the dairy producers of the province how they are to price their product.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I do not think the member asked for that help, nor does he need it.

These are matters which we believe should properly be left to the milk marketing board. The board is a producer board, elected by producers across the province in the best interests of producers across the province.

Sorting out the transportation pooling costs in northern Ontario is not an easy matter. It is a matter which has been to the board on at least two or three occasions. It has been to the tribunal on two or three occasions, including a recent rehearing.

I understand there was a recent decision of the milk marketing board to increase, I believe by \$2 per hectolitre, the price to the producer. Having said that, I am also told the dairy processors are going to appeal that decision to the tribunal.

These are all matters that, because they are within the supply management system through

which the producers regulate their own affairs under the Farm Products Marketing Act, we think are best left to the producers.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The minister is obviously a little behind. He probably does not know that the \$2 has been, temporarily at least, rolled back.

In the 1972 budget, the province was able to equalize the price of beer across Ontario by putting a surcharge of pennies on a case of beer. Surely milk, which is a basic commodity and basic to most people's needs, obviously requires a little more attention than the minister is prepared to give it by shuffling it off to the producers who have had their own difficulties in dealing with the problem.

This problem now needs provincial interest in it, both to protect the producers and to lower the price of milk to the consumers in northern Ontario.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think we are talking about two rather different industries. In 1972, how many beer producers would there have been in Ontario? Half a dozen—10 at the most? We are talking about more than 11,000 milk producers in Ontario who are part of the milk marketing system.

As a matter of government policy, we do not subsidize the prices of agricultural products, nor do we subsidize the pooling of transportation costs in the province. I understand what the member is saying, but if he would check in the stores in his part of the province he would still find milk specials in many of those stores. The price is competitive in his area.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It is not.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It is. We believe it is best left with the milk marketing board with which we are working to try to find an equitable solution, but it has to be done within the milk marketing system.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

CITY OF NORTH YORK ACT

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, first reading of Bill Pr8, An Act respecting the City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Di Santo moved, seconded by Mr. R. F. Johnston, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that

being the current controversy in the city of North York over the establishment of group homes to provide housing and care for handicapped and disabled people in the community and, in particular, the work of the Reena Foundation in establishing community alternatives for residents of the Ark Eden Nursing Home; the apprehension in the community provoked by the dissemination of misleading information about the nature and purpose of the group homes that are to be established; and the need for all members of the Legislature to restate in the clearest possible terms their support for the concept of community living and to work for justice and understanding for disabled people.

Mr. Speaker: The resolution has been received within the time limits prescribed under standing order 34(a). I am prepared to listen for up to five minutes to members' comments on why the ordinary business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, the reason I am asking the House to set aside the regular order of business is the seriousness of the situation evolving in my community, North York. The Reena Foundation has decided to open four group homes in North York that will be the residences of 20 multiple-handicapped children who are now at Ark Eden Nursing Home.

The fact the four group homes will be established has provoked a reaction that is totally disproportionate to the fact of the homes being opened. That is proved by the number of headlines in all the papers, especially the Italian newspapers, programs on Italian radio and television and, of course, as members know, a campaign that is going on and also demonstrations that took place before the Legislature last Saturday.

The fact is this is not just an ordinary dispute. It is an extraordinary dispute because the setting up of the nursing homes is having an impact on a population that is reacting emotionally for reasons that are totally understandable. The reaction seems to be disproportionate because the people who are affected have been put in a situation that is totally novel to them.

There has been a lack of information, and above all there has been a campaign with the aim of misleading these very people for purposes I really do not understand but they are unfortunate because of the consequences they are having for the general public in this area. In many places in North York we have seen signs saying, "No group homes in North York." Petitions have been circulated and there have been leaflets outside

churches on the last two Sundays. This situation reflects on society and on the people whom I represent, the people in the west end of North York.

But it also needs to be clarified for the general public of Ontario, because I think many people have the wrong impression that in the west end of Toronto people do not accept the handicapped. This is not the case, because in many cases people have been told it will not be the handicapped who will move into their neighbourhoods but all kinds of group homes that are not under the purview of the North York bylaws.

It is extremely difficult to clarify the situation unless there is a clear-cut statement from this Legislature as well as from the government accompanied by a commitment to wage a very major campaign. It is easy for us to understand the bills we pass because we debate them at length, but it is extremely difficult for people who work every day and who in many instances do not even speak the English language and who are deliberately misled.

For these reasons I think it is worth while for us to set aside the business of the day of the Legislature and debate this very important and urgent matter.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I join this debate on behalf of my party to indicate that we will support the motion for an emergency debate because we think this is a matter that is very worthy of discussion and one on which all parties should put their views on the record.

I do not think there is a lot of disagreement between the parties, and during the debate today I think we would perhaps want to do something positive with respect to the establishment of group homes throughout Ontario in the months and years to come.

As we have said on so many other occasions on other issues, these homes cannot go in a place called nowhere; they must be spread through the communities, through the province, and they should properly be spread through all communities in the province as an important adjunct to our whole policy of the deinstitutionalization of developmentally and physically handicapped individuals.

3:20 p.m.

My party is proud to say that we believe firmly in a group home policy as an adjunct to the policy of deinstitutionalization. That is why over the last year and a half, as this Legislature knows, my colleagues and I have raised on numerous occasions with the minister, in debate and at meetings, the whole policy of deinstitutionaliza-

tion as it pertains to medium-sized group homes, some of which are being closed and some yet to be closed.

I want to lay out very briefly for members some of the views we have about a group home policy which we believe ought to be put in place in this province.

1. We believe group homes should be permitted in residential areas without the need for site-specific amendments.

2. We believe group home operators should inform communities of the type of home being introduced into a neighbourhood, the needs of its residents and the program offered.

3. We believe voluntary organizations should continue to be encouraged through their provincial associations to provide community information regarding special-needs groups—for example, the physically disabled and the psychiatrically disabled.

4. We believe neighbourhood residents should be invited by the operators of the home to learn more about its role in the community. I think this is a very important aspect of allowing the community to work together in a very positive way.

5. We believe the programming of the group homes should be integrated with community activities wherever appropriate and possible. I think this is an important extension of the whole spirit of making group homes a part of the community.

6. We believe the province should fund a study regarding the role of group home living on the integration of special-needs groups into the community.

7. We support the promotion of volunteerism in the programming of group homes.

8. We believe many group homes exemplify quality programming for their residents, which facilitates their integration into the community.

9. We believe funds should be made available by the relevant ministries to ensure that group home operators receive adequate training regarding program planning for their residents.

Those are views my party has held for some time now, more than three years. I think it is important in the debate this afternoon for all parties to restate their positions on this very important matter. I think all parties should lend a positive air to the kind of programs we all hope will go forward in every community of Ontario.

I noted during question period this afternoon that the minister referred to some very positive developments in the community of the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) and spoke in a very

positive way about them. That is the kind of response I hope we will get out of the debate this afternoon.

Our party will support this motion for an emergency debate and we look forward to joining in the debate as the afternoon progresses.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to indicate the government is very much in support of having this debate proceed this afternoon. We think it will give everyone in the House participating in the debate a chance to reassert his position in support of group homes across this province. They will be speaking on behalf of many other members who will not have an opportunity to be involved in the debate.

Certainly, this government has put a high priority on helping the disadvantaged and has given great encouragement to establishing group homes across this province. As members know, more than 1,000 group homes are established across the province at the present time. We have encouraged the idea that they be accepted and understood in communities. We have encouraged municipalities to get involved and pass bylaws enabling group homes to be established in their communities.

We have asked municipalities to do this in consultation with residents in the community. After what has happened in North York, I believe this has taken place. I think the member for that area indicated very clearly he had an opportunity to be informed of what was going to be taking place. It certainly seems as if others have given out misinformation in that regard, and that is rather unfortunate. It is unfortunate history has to repeat itself, because in many instances this has happened before. The situation we see in North York is one we have seen in other communities.

I believe there was an excellent attempt made to provide the information. Perhaps in our discussions today much of that information will be provided by the minister and others involved in the debate. I am sure what the minister indicated during question period today will go a long way towards making sure the information is available to people in that community.

Participation in the community is certainly necessary and important. Where group homes have been established, I think members will find that the people in the community who have become involved with them have made an excellent contribution and are more than pleased to be part of the involvement in the group homes in the community. Certainly, it gives an opportunity for the residents of the group homes

themselves to become involved with people in the community.

We welcome this opportunity. We think the members will have a chance this afternoon to reassert their support for group homes across Ontario and an opportunity to indicate the kind of involvement and the kinds of programs they would like to see carried out in regard to the activities of group homes in the various communities. We support this debate proceeding for the afternoon and the involvement of many members in the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Quite obviously, we have unanimity of feeling. Is it the wish of the House the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

GROUP HOMES

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for allowing this debate. I think it is very timely and I hope it will clarify the many issues that are unclear at this moment to many people in North York. I hope this debate will help to bring some serenity to the people who are very anxious because they do not understand all the facets of the situation.

In the 10 minutes I have, I would like to outline just briefly what is happening in North York. The Reena Foundation has decided to open four group homes in the ridings of Downsview and Yorkview that will be housing developmentally handicapped children who are at present in nursing homes.

On January 24 the members representing the two ridings were notified of a meeting. These representatives took part in the meeting. The Reena Foundation indicated where the houses would be and explained the municipal bylaws. They also said they would circulate a letter to those residents living within 200 feet of the group homes before renovations would begin.

When the renovations began, the neighbours who reside around the houses in question immediately began reacting very angrily because they were faced with a situation that was totally new to them. They had, as I did, I must confess, very little knowledge of the operations of group homes or of the provincial regulations and the municipal bylaws.

I must say the North York bylaw regulating nursing homes states that only nursing homes for handicapped children or senior citizens and convalescents can be set in residential neighbourhoods. As I said, the lack of information was at the origin of the anxiety of many residents, and that anxiety was perhaps justified.

3:30 p.m.

For reasons I still cannot understand or rationalize, a campaign immediately started that brought about the present situation. People were told that not only would handicapped people be housed in the four homes, but all kinds of residents who were not under the purview of North York bylaws.

The signs seen in the newspapers and on TV, "No Group Homes in North York Residential Area," gave a wrong impression that the residents of North York are opposed to any kind of group homes, including those for the handicapped and, therefore, they would not accept the handicapped in their neighbourhoods. That campaign was conducted door to door and people were incited to go to public meetings to express their protest about group homes.

The number of group homes was greatly inflated. People were told all kinds of lies, as the minister said before. For instance, that 127 group homes were to be built in my riding, when we know that is the general plan for the whole city of North York.

That campaign has been fuelled by statements made by people who should have been more responsible. The minister himself has been asked to withdraw funding for the Reena Foundation and to make stricter regulations. It has also been mentioned that perhaps the zoning bylaws that are the responsibility of the city of North York should be stricter and should respond to the concerns of the residents. All this has been on the basis that the neighbourhood would be destroyed and the value of the houses would go down.

That is a very important psychological element. For immigrants coming to this country to seek some security and certainty, the fact that their homes would lose value means they would lose what they have that is concrete and what in many cases was the result of years of hard work. To play on those emotions is totally irresponsible.

People were called to Queen's Park last Saturday to a rally where they expected thousands of people. Thanks to the commitment of many people in our communities, such as church and community leaders, they had only 250 people. When a speaker said, "I hope as many of you show up at election time as you have today," I thought that was downright disgusting.

I do not want to discuss the issue of the handicapped. Yesterday I visited the neighbours of one of the group homes and they were very upset, but I explained to them what it implied. I explained to them the government would give a

commitment the houses would be used exclusively for the handicapped. They were not pleased, but at least they understood.

What is going on in our community has to be focussed on the real question. For that reason, during question period we asked the minister to make a statement. We are asking the Legislature to express its feelings. I hope other politicians outside this Legislature become more responsible and do not go on attacking the method of how the Reena Foundation informed the people. At this stage that is not the issue.

At this stage the issue is whether they accept group homes or not. If we explain the issue correctly, I think the majority of the people, if not all of them, will be in favour of accepting the group homes. Because of this campaign of dissemination of outright lies, I think the larger community itself probably has been misled into thinking that this part of North York has no heart, that this particular group of citizens has no heart and does not want to accept poor handicapped children. This impression has to be corrected.

At the same time I cannot restrain myself from condemning those people who are trying to take advantage of this unfortunate situation. We were told today of another case in Cambridge. Maybe in the short term, advantages will come to those people who are exploiting this situation, but in the long term they will not have any advantage. Above all, from whatever point of view one looks at the situation, it is disgraceful that some people should use this issue in order to gain political or other advantage.

Our concerns are those of many other people in the community, and that should tell the Legislature what the majority of the people think about this issue.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to join this debate with a sense of concern not just about what is happening specifically in North York because I think in some ways it is unfair to single out North York. I know my friend the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) is probably very sensitive to the issue because it is happening in his community. I think all of us should look within ourselves and perhaps to the fact that it really could be happening in our communities. We could be dealing with an insensitivity, a concern and a problem that could have started in our own communities.

I do not mean this in any partisan way, but perhaps we as legislators together have not yet emphasized enough the commonality of interests we have with respect to group homes. Perhaps

this debate today will go a long way towards resolving this problem.

I appreciated the comments of my friend the member for Downsview as he outlined the fact that we are dealing at this stage simply with four group homes in a two-riding area, a very large area in the north end of Toronto, and with a very small number of individuals—fewer than 20 in number—who will be placed in those group homes.

I think all of us agree that if we are going to move forward in 1984 and in the years to come in deinstitutionalizing people, putting them out in the community where they can live lives as normally as any individuals who are either severely physically handicapped or developmentally handicapped can, we simply must work together to make it happen.

We must all of us, it seems to me, not just as legislators but as citizens, be prepared to accept these individuals openly and in a positive fashion in all our communities throughout Ontario for the very simple reason that they come from every community in Ontario. In its basest sense it would be, in the first instance, unfair in a policy of deinstitutionalization to have these people move away from their communities when they could be close to their loved ones, their families and their friends.

I want to speak for a couple of minutes about two of the most important aspects of the group home policy my party has, because I think these are two of the keys to beginning to end the kinds of problems that have led to this emergency debate today and to a very unfortunate situation in North York.

3:40 p.m.

The first is the fact that neighbourhood residents should be invited by operators of the home to learn more about its role in the community. I do not know, and the minister may know better than I, whether that is happening everywhere or in some places but not in a whole lot of places.

I think it is very important for those in the neighbourhood to be given an opportunity to understand, even after the home is opened, how much a part of the community those group homes are. They are not something strange and different. They may be physically different because of the physical handicap or the developmental handicap of those who are living inside. It is very important to remove that aspect of fear, which is what the member for Downsview was talking about, and the feeling of being threatened.

The second aspect we should be emphasizing, which we as a Legislature should be encouraging as well as within our own communities both as individual members and as individual citizens, is that the programming of those group homes should be integrated within the community as far as possible.

I suppose most of us as legislators have seen it a little differently in our travels around the province and within our own communities, but I am afraid a lot of ordinary citizens in our communities do not realize that the developmentally handicapped and the physically handicapped very often are people just like ourselves. Somehow they are viewed as being different.

The more we can do to not only physically integrate the people in the home but also to physically integrate them into all aspects of the community, the better. Integrating them into the schools and into community activities by having outings in the community so they have stores that they go to would be a very useful exercise.

What has been going on in the north end of Toronto over the last two or three months is an unfortunate symptom of something that could have happened in the east end of Toronto, in the west end of Toronto and in my own community of Windsor. I see the minister saying it would not have happened in the east end of Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is right.

Mr. Wrye: I am pleased to see he has got things so well under control. For my own part, I am sure these kinds of unfortunate attitudes could have displayed themselves in my community.

I want to say about the people who were out in front of this place on Saturday and people who have been at previous meetings, that we as legislators ought to be very careful not to put ourselves up on pedestals and say those people are bigots. We risk being somewhat elitist by saying that. I mean that quite sincerely.

What those people are is uneducated. They are confused. They perhaps do not fully comprehend what a group home means. Quite frankly, some of the experience I have had has been that it means neighbours at least as good as and perhaps much better than neighbours one will have experienced before. One of the things it rarely means is a neighbour any one of us would not be proud to have living in our neighbourhood or next door. These are homes where the people care about their homes and the surroundings in the neighbourhood. I believe they do not detract from the neighbourhood; they very clearly add to the neighbourhood.

I hope that through the discussions we are having today and through other discussions, and I note the leader of the third party (Mr. Rae) suggested there might be discussions amongst all of us, we might formulate a resolution. I am not sure what he has in mind. I noticed the minister was not exactly sure what kind of a resolution he wished to have drafted. I am sure my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) will tell us when he speaks.

As our party's critic for Community and Social Services and as a supporter of group homes throughout this province, I would be quite prepared to listen carefully to any resolution the third party might propose. I would be quite prepared to sit down with any group to see whether there is some joint agreement we can reach that would move forward the deinstitutionalization of people in Ontario. I would join with any group to see whether we could speed the movement of people into small group homes scattered throughout the province's communities.

In closing, I think the incident in North York has been an unfortunate one. I hope through the discussions this afternoon we can turn what has been an unfortunate incident into a very positive thrust featuring members of each of the three parties. I hope we perhaps will have played a small role in educating the public on the positive aspects of group homes in the province.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, just for a few moments today I would like to talk about the other side of the politics of selfishness. What we are talking about today is a very fundamental issue. That issue is the right of everyone, regardless of his congenital failings, to live a life that will provide as much opportunity as his talents and potential will permit.

We can dismiss the various arguments of the politics of selfishness relatively quickly. First, it is a matter of record that if there is a group home next to you, near you or in your neighbourhood, the property values will not go down. Second, I know of no group home to which the slightest interest or even a glimmer of curiosity has been shown that has not tried to involve the neighbourhood in part of or as much of its program as the nature of the home will permit.

Finally, naïve as I may be, I do not believe there are ordinary people in ordinary circumstances in ordinary neighbourhoods who do not want others to have the same opportunities as they. I think it takes a great deal of instigation, provocation and deliberate misrepresentation to produce the sorry sights we have seen on

television, on the front lawn of this Legislature and indeed—if members want to go back a few months—on the nice lawns of Parkdale. In every single case a vested interest was involved.

3:50 p.m.

Today is a very memorable day in this Legislature, because it gives us an opportunity to put to rest many of the myths and misrepresentations and to show that Ontario is a province that cares and is determined that, regardless of the circumstances of one's birth and regardless of the circumstances of one's physical, mental or emotional condition, he has not only the right to live in the community but also the right to enjoy the very special things that life in the community means.

We have very fine institutions in Ontario, the finest in the world, but no matter how fine an institution is, it is no substitute for a home. It is no substitute for the right to live in the community.

I want to draw to the attention of the House a rather interesting document. It was the basis for a number of sermons in Roman Catholic churches a week ago yesterday. It starts out in Italian because that is the predominant language of the people who are involved.

"Proposta soluzione per i problemi locali."

Before some members say this is merely a problem with Italian-speaking people, let me say that when there was trouble with a group home, and the group home was responsible for part of the trouble, it was an Italian neighbourhood that not only gave the home a second chance when the minister went up there but also after 45 days welcomed the change in direction and welcomed the residents of the home into the community.

This statement, which is signed by Father Sbrocchi, points out that "there are contradictory rumours concerning the contents of a law which has recently been approved on 'group homes.'"

It points out that the church does not really want to get involved in a secular issue, but says four things:

"1. May politicians at all three levels [of government] convene and inform the community about the extent of the law." We are doing that this afternoon.

"2. We encourage this community to collaborate sincerely and without animosity toward a just solution to this issue." The people of goodwill in that neighbourhood have already done that. Those four homes will open on time and there will not be any trouble at all.

"3. Should difficulties arise in reaching a peaceful solution to the issue, we urge all

involved parties to be driven only by a burning desire for justice and charity.

"4. We invite all to accept handicapped people as Christ Himself, with love and understanding, to create a friendly atmosphere, so that they may feel wanted members of our community."

The events in North York may have been unfortunate. I put no blame and point no fingers, because I think that when those who held up those signs have an opportunity to reconsider, an opportunity to perhaps read some explanations in their own language, to discuss them with their own families—because most of them appear to me to be the type of people who have children—those signs will turn around and they will welcome the people into the homes.

They are liberating 24 very frail people from a nursing home. They are offering them a new life. Those 24 people are going to be an asset to their neighbourhood; they will be an inspiration to the children who were born hale and hearty and who will not have to undergo the difficult life that the young people who are coming out of a nursing home will have.

I would be less than honest with this assembly if I were to suggest I am only here speaking on behalf of the developmentally handicapped or even the physically handicapped. If anyone thinks this minister is going to turn his back on those who have had emotional difficulties, on those who have been in psychiatric hospitals or other institutions, then I am sorry, because this minister is not going to turn his back on them, nor is he going to turn his back on the correctional field, because it was when I was Minister of Correctional Services that in a very large way I started community corrections. The community is a better place for it.

I hope that many members of the assembly will participate and will be able to give of their personal feelings, their intellectual capabilities and their very profound social obligations towards those who are less fortunate.

I think we can do much in this assembly this afternoon to give many hundreds of people, many of whom will never see an institution, a chance at a far better life and a chance to build a far better community by becoming very positive, very forthright and by saying that in this province there must be opportunity for all or what we are doing is simply not worth doing.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion presented by the member for Downsview. I am very pleased to follow the speech by the minister, which I think set the right tone and had the right strength of commitment we

would expect from him because he has always been very strong in this area of policy.

As we discuss this, I think it is important to remember who we are talking about in this case. These are the kids who were in Ark Eden. A number of years ago we decided we would try to help those mentally retarded who had been put into institutions around the province to get out of them. We established the tri-ministry project to try to get them out of homes for special care and into the community where they could have appropriate programs. These are some of those people.

Part of the consequence of making that decision is to put them into group homes or in some cases into apartments where they can be provided with proper support. As part of those decisions that we have made and that we are all pleased with, we must open group homes because we must have places for those people to stay.

In question period today, when I was talking about the need for more promotion, the minister suggested that we may not need it today, that perhaps this is the last time we will see the kind of furore that has been raised, the distortion of facts that has been perpetrated on the community and has confused a lot of the residents and made them very insecure about the placement of these group homes. However, I do not think it is the last we will see.

I recall to the minister, and I am sure he does not have to think about this much, what took place in the Indian Road community and what took place very near where I live in the Beaches area where a community found out there was a group home going in that they did not want, so they just went in and bought the place to stop it from happening. Now we have this case in North York which, if anything, has been blown even larger than the other two examples.

4 p.m.

Everything the minister said about not pointing the finger of blame, especially not at this community, is true. As members, we should not necessarily even be attacking some people outside of politics who have been most active in perpetuating some of these falsehoods about this group home and what it means to the community, but I do think we have a responsibility to look at ourselves, at what our role has been and at what the individual members have already done with respect to this matter.

I have nothing but praise for the member for Downsview; I have nothing but praise for Mike Foster, alderman in that area; I have nothing but

praise for Maria Rizzo, school trustee in the area; I have nothing but praise for the minister and his staff and for the way they have operated in trying to overcome these problems. But I do have some significant problems with the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri) and I do not think it should go unsaid here.

Mr. Philip: Where is the member for Yorkview? He is not even here for the debate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not care where he is today, and I do not think that is the issue.

We all know what our overall thrust has been as government people in favour of deinstitutionalization; we all know the responsibilities we are talking about; we all know we are talking about the basic human rights of people to be able to receive services in their own communities.

Yet we have a member of this Legislature who tries to intervene with the minister to suggest there should be a moratorium on group home placements for a year, while supposedly new guidelines are put in place under which they are to be brought in; a member who assumes that in some way the group home did not take the proper action with respect to informing the community and politicians, including himself, as it did do.

The role of a member of the Legislature, with the status that member has, getting up in the community and not standing up responsibly for what Reena Foundation is up to and for the rights of those people from Ark Eden to live in that community is, in my view, reprehensible. The reason we need this debate today is not just the enormity of the reaction out there in the community of North York; it has to do with the fact that members of this House have a responsibility, one and all, to make a statement that we support what is going on with the Reena group, that we support the principles involved and that we want to allay the fears that have been perpetrated on the people in this community.

My leader was talking to the minister earlier about the possibility of an all-party resolution to make this statement clear. I would just make one addendum to it, and we can work this out together. But it should be signed by every member of this Legislature and it should be circulated in that community. That is the only way we will overcome the stigma now attached to this House with respect to the question of whether our parochial interests as politicians come first or whether the principle in the hard issues, such as whether a group home should be placed in our community, should take precedence.

I would ask the minister to consider a couple of things that come out of this, given the fact that here we are in 1984 and we have had this kind of reaction.

First, I would say that as-of-right zoning is something the government of Ontario should initiate and it should not be the responsibility of each individual municipality to decide on, especially when they often decide on it with exclusions.

This is something we need to readdress in this House. We raised it many times, as the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch) will know, when she was Provincial Secretary for Social Development. We have raised it many times in the past, and always we have said: "Let us take the piecemeal approach to this. Let us try to get communities to come in one at a time on the terms they are willing to come in on as locally elected people."

I suggest we cannot have it both ways. If we believe this is a matter of human rights, if we say we are not going to back down with respect to any of the groups we have listed, then it has to be stated as a matter of right from the provincial level and then all the municipalities will be told to comply. They are the creatures of the province in so many other ways. Why should they not be considered so in this way when it is a matter of basic, fundamental human rights? Now is perhaps the time to confront this head on if we really believe there is no group to be excluded and that all people have a right to be served in their communities within the social policy framework we have established.

The second thing I would say is that the minister has said he feels this is perhaps the last case, and I have indicated I am very worried it is not. I would ask him to look very carefully at the recommendations brought forward to him by the Longwoods Research Group Ltd. in March 1980. I would ask him to consider what they say on page 7 of that document. "The results of this research suggest strongly the time is ripe for a public information program on group homes, because: (1) awareness is low; (2) opinions are not well formed; (3) the large majority, when informed, are positive towards the concept; (4) there is evidence that the majority do not think they are in a majority and may not therefore stand up to pressure from a vocal minority"—I think we have just seen that—"and (5) public education seems to work."

It called for a major public education program for Ontario. I suggest that should go hand in glove with new legislation to bring in as-of-right

zoning across Ontario. If we can spend money on radio and TV ads such as "Preserve it; conserve it" and some of the other issues that have been debated a number of times in this House, I suggest we can do a media ad campaign in general terms concerning the good work of group homes. As it says in this document, they strike the best balance between the needs of the community and the needs of the disadvantaged.

I would encourage the government to bring in that kind of promotional package. However it should only do so when it is willing to state in legislation that the human rights argument is the fundamental argument. It should state that all these people have the right to be served in their community and we all have a social obligation to make sure they have that right. It should then provide the promotional work to support that legislation.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, this is an issue about which I have very strong feelings. I was not aware the debate on this was going to take place today. Consequently, I feel somewhat unprepared to express those feelings. I guess it is one of those situations where I will have to wing it.

I have been most impressed by the comments of all members from both sides of the House. I would only suggest to the previous speaker that someone else said a couple of thousand years ago, "Let him throw the first stone."

It is true we have a responsibility to speak out very clearly on an issue like this. I in no way apologize for what anyone else has done. I in no way take my position from what someone else has done. As a matter of fact, I can go back to the last provincial election and share a little anecdote with my colleagues. Perhaps it will make us all pause.

There was one poll in my riding where I took 80 per cent of the vote in both the 1975 and 1977 elections. Immediately prior to the 1981 election there was a plan to introduce a group home in that poll. This group home was going to be occupied by five handicapped children from the Sunbeam Home, which is also in my riding. The only crime of these five children was that they happened to be retarded and also physically handicapped. That is all. There was a royal hubbub from that area as to whether or not such a home should be permitted.

I had worked with Sunbeam for a long time. I had encouraged them to move into group homes those children who were able to be moved. I believed then and I believe today that each of those children, as the minister so eloquently put it, has a right to live as normal a life as possible in

as normal a community as possible; that is the same kind of community the members and I live in, not zoned downtown somewhere on a strip, not in an institution but in a family home and a family community.

4:10 p.m.

The long and the short of it was I said that very clearly. In that election, instead of getting 80 per cent of the vote in that poll, I got only 20 per cent. It reversed itself.

The thing that upset me just a little was that my political opponents from the other two parties refused to support me on the issue. That is what I mean by, "Let us not throw stones."

What genuinely concerned me in that situation, and I think it is the same here, was that the people who opposed it to a large extent did so because of ignorance and fear. That was two years ago. Since then, I have never received any kind of recriminatory mailings or phone calls from that community.

The home has been well accepted by the community. Once people really discover and learn who these people are, what they are going to do and how they affect the community, the ignorance and fear disappear and acceptance becomes the rule.

It is our responsibility as politicians, citizens and members of our community to be sure ignorance and fear do not rule, because it has been my experience that when people truly know, they tend to be a lot more open and accepting than when they do not.

Part of the reason is that the messages they get from so many other sources suggest any kind of human imperfection is to be avoided. When I asked one mother why she so opposed the presence of this home in her community and neighbourhood, her answer was, and these are her exact words: "I do not want my children to see those kinds of people on the streets. I do not want them to see other kids in wheelchairs, twisted and bent, with saliva dripping down their chins or with a vacant look on their faces."

That mother meant what she said. She was really afraid for her children to see someone who was different, less than perfect, who to her could only be described as less than human.

Where do people in our society get that kind of message? Is it not something that somehow or other we all convey? It is certainly conveyed in advertising, on television, in magazines and over the radio that physical perfection is something to be desired and anything less is something to be avoided. Is there any wonder we get this kind of reaction?

With maybe a different kind of experience, I think we have a responsibility to convey a different message. That message is that every human being and human life, regardless of any imperfections, has a right to live and to be lived as fully as possible. We should object and object strongly to those who would, through restricted zoning, push such people into the backwaters of our communities, into a strip or institution.

I am as aware as anyone in this House that there are some handicapped people in our society who need a great deal of assistance and who may have to be in an institution, but there are large numbers of such people who do not. Our responsibility surely is to make the opportunity available to every man, woman and child in Ontario who can function in our residential communities without restrictions to be there.

I am pleased to say that, generally speaking, in the Kitchener-Wilmot area that is accepted. The minister mentioned homes for those who have been in penitentiaries. Kitchener has the first community resource centre in Kitchener House. It is accepted.

Kitchener recently gave an award, and this was recognized by Canada as well, to a lady in our community by the name of Anna Kaljas. She took in people nobody else would take, people who came from psychiatric hospitals and had no place to live, people who had emotional problems and had no other place to live. I am happy to say her neighbours support her in that action.

The ignorance and fear people have about their property values going down has been dispelled by surveys taken in every community across this country. It just does not happen. People who make decisions based on ignorance and a fear that their own children and their own community are somehow going to be, if I can use the word in quotes, "infected" by the presence of such people, have had it demonstrated over and over again that when such a group home establishes itself in a community this does not occur. Acceptance, humanity, tolerance, and tolerance in the best sense of the word, the most positive sense of the word, have shown themselves to be what actually happens. That is the message we have to put out.

I am pleased to have had an opportunity this afternoon to participate in this debate and, along with my colleagues in all parties, to send that message out in the clearest possible terms.

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, in the beginning, I would like to commend the member for Downsview for bringing this matter before the House, and especially for the tone of the

resolution which, it seems to me, strikes the kind of note most of us have been trying to play for many years on this issue. I might also say it agrees with my own feelings on the matter as a person, aside from my responsibilities here.

As most members know, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development has played a leading role over the years, as a matter of fact for the last six years, in promoting community living for people with special needs. It is a role that has been taken very seriously by my predecessors in this ministry, and one I take seriously myself, because we are firmly committed to the belief that all disabled people have the right to live in their own community in a neighbourhood setting, just as each one of us does.

We are committed to working with communities across the province to make changes in land use policies so that group homes can be established in all neighbourhoods without the need for site-specific amendments. This is a matter that has been discussed many times, but the record of what has happened in Ontario demonstrates that without compulsory provincial legislation, which some still say should be done, we have established more than 1,000 group homes which, as my colleague the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) stated recently, now operate quietly and without incident in communities across the province. At last count, I believe there were 1,276 such group homes in Ontario.

These group homes will be found throughout Ontario in communities that represent a combined population of over six million people, about three quarters of the provincial population, where all kinds of group homes are permitted in residential neighbourhoods under our present policies.

4:20 p.m.

I am encouraged, too, to see how many of the letters that have been written to the newspapers about the issue that has brought this matter to a head have been supportive, and how few have been negative.

One such letter, which I will not quote from extensively, was written by a lady named Sally-Ann Kerman. Most members probably saw it. She said she was shocked to see the action taken by her neighbours in North York. She proceeded to say, "What will our children learn from children who are in these group homes except courage, fellowship, tolerance and community spirit?" She is quite correct in saying that you do not put your home "in a corner and forget it," as you would some weed in your garden, but treat it rather as you would a precious plant. "You

put it in the best location and nurture it." That is what is proposed here.

A number of measures have been taken by the secretariat over the past six years, and I would like to acquaint the members with some that are under way. They are mainly directed at increasing awareness and acceptance of group homes across the province.

Such a change in attitude, which we want to influence, cannot happen overnight, but I believe we are responding to the need for education in a number of ways. For example, this secretariat produced last year a resource manual on group homes. This was while my colleague the member for Scarborough East was Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

It describes programs, how one establishes a home and how they are regulated and assessed. It outlines the process for establishing bylaws and homes. It is designed for elected municipal officials and their staff, sponsors of group homes, staff of the ministry and other organizations that are interested in the issue. In short, it is available to everyone and is in the government bookstore for anyone who wants it.

Our government believes group home sponsors should be sensitive to the information needs of neighbours. By that, I do not refer to a process that would allow people to prevent the establishment of a group home by giving them a lot of secret information or something of that nature. One which meets all the regulations and is permitted in the given location under local zoning bylaws must always be permitted to go ahead. I do believe, though, that all operators of such homes, regardless of their legal right, have a responsibility to do their best to explain the purpose of the home and to answer questions before the residents move in.

Other initiatives that have been undertaken by the government include a joint program by our government and the Canadian Mental Health Association, through the Ministry of Health, addressing the increasing public support for community-based mental health programs. That information campaign has been supported by those two groups, the Ministry of Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association, in a very tangible way. Workshops were held last fall in six Ontario cities, where hundreds of delegates attended two-day sessions and were presented with what was suggested as a seven-step communications plan for everyone interested in group homes.

As well, this secretariat, with the support of ministries such as the Ministry of Community

and Social Services and the Ministry of Health, established a community outreach program in the city of Toronto. Included were a series of workshops for group home operators, our own staff and community representatives. They are just concluding now and have been very well received. We are hoping to use those sessions as a model from which similar programs can be developed in the future to use in other communities.

As a follow-up to that, my secretariat provides speakers for any interested group to discuss these matters and to acquaint any community with what is involved in having a group home. We are also distributing, and it was begun last year, a quarterly newsletter called Group Homes Exchange, which has the purpose of fostering informed dialogue about group home issues. The one that came out last week addresses itself to the matter of communication and awareness and provides practical approaches for integrating group homes into neighbourhoods.

It is obvious more can be done to ensure group home operators and neighbourhoods work together. Our government is doing at least part of its duty in fostering good neighbourliness, and we will continue to do everything we can to facilitate a co-operative approach.

I would like to emphasize the need for objectivity and fairness in our dealings with this important issue. We are talking today about a matter which brought this to our attention in connection with the group homes in North York. We are talking about four community homes for 24 persons in the second largest city in Ontario, which has a population of more than 550,000 people. If we add to that group of population the number who are living in existing group homes throughout North York, we are talking about 140 people, people who have special needs and who have a right to live their lives in a community setting. Surely this cannot be seen to be an unreasonable request.

In my responsibility here I will endeavour to ensure that community awareness activity continues to be undertaken to increase our effectiveness. I do expect the people in the communities where these group homes are proposed will act in a responsible and rational manner. In that way lies our future ability to provide needed community nurture for our less fortunate sisters and brothers.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate this afternoon for two reasons.

First, as my colleague the member for Scarborough West pointed out during his contribution, I think we have a bit of a problem here in this Legislature because the kind of ignorance and fear the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) so rightly spoke against was stirred up in large measure by a member of this assembly. I, for one at least, want to participate in this debate in order to disassociate myself from that attitude towards leadership.

It is important to me, representing as I do and coming as I do from Toronto's Italian community, to disassociate myself from the current campaign of the member for Yorkview lest there be any confusion that silence on my part would somehow indicate assent or consent.

I reaffirm my own commitment to support for group homes in each and every one of our neighbourhoods and communities as a matter of basic human right. This has been an issue I have tried to speak to ever since I was elected in 1975. It has been important to me personally as a human rights issue, not as a zoning issue, a matter of real estate law or a real estate concern. People have no more business telling a handicapped person he or she cannot live on the street than they have telling a black person or a Jewish person or anybody else he or she cannot live on the street. It is a basic human rights issue.

I have always argued in this assembly that, because it is a human rights issue, exclusionary zoning bylaws should be struck down where they exist. That includes those in the old Planning Act. They should be replaced by as-of-right zoning bylaws which will permit the orderly development of group homes in every community where they are required and needed.

I have had a difference of opinion, as my colleague the member for Scarborough East will acknowledge, with the government over the years as to whether or not the province should be imposing as-of-right zoning legislation on municipalities. The province has taken the position that it is better to proceed on a voluntary basis.

While we will continue to agree to disagree, the province has made great progress in the last few years across this province in encouraging municipalities to develop as-of-right zoning bylaws. I am encouraged to see that happening.

I think there is an argument from principle, though, in the first place as to why on earth it is possible for a municipality to exclude people on the basis of handicap or because they are children or because they had a mental illness. I do not understand that and I continue not to understand

why it is permitted in law to discriminate legally against people because of some disability, handicap or affliction they have.

4:30 p.m.

The second reason I welcome an opportunity to participate in the debate is the importance of the group home issue per se as a social policy item. Before we had come up with the group home approach—if I may say, I am exaggerating slightly—before people had developed the notion that normal community living was an option for a whole bunch of people, we were locked into one way of dealing with people with problems, and that was to institutionalize them.

If they were children, we put them in training schools; if they had a mental illness, we put them in psychiatric hospitals; if they were mentally retarded or if they had a developmental handicap, God forgive us, we put them in the old Ontario schools for the retarded, located hundreds of miles away from their own communities, and forgot about them.

In 1972 this province was blessed with a man, Walter Williston, who gave us a blueprint for getting away from all that, for bringing about a new day for the mentally retarded and, by extension, for a whole bunch of other people too.

This province has moved, not as quickly as I think it should have, but it has moved away from institutional incarceration for children. We do not put children in training schools any more; we did away with those. I remember very clearly, as though it were yesterday, that day in January 1976 when the minister announced it. We do not send mentally retarded children to Ontario schools for the retarded; we do not put people in mental hospitals and throw away the key.

We still have serious problems, however, and this is why the group home issue is so important. If we are not able to develop the group home alternatives, the anti-institutional alternatives, the normal community living arrangements in each and every neighbourhood, then there are many people who will be forced to remain unnecessarily in institutional settings.

I am the member who first brought the issue of Ark Eden Nursing Home before the Legislature during the estimates of the Ministry of Health and then later in the full House. It is a horrible example of how a number of people have been disadvantaged by virtue of the failure to develop sufficient group homes across the province.

Because of the shortage of group homes, because of our failure as a society to develop a sufficient number of anti-institutional alternatives, a number of children and a number of

adults have had to stay in institutional settings under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health in private nursing homes and in homes for special care simply because enough alternatives have not been developed.

One of the reasons sufficient alternatives have not been developed is that many municipalities have refused to accept group homes. It is a vicious circle. Government has affirmed the correct policy, and this Legislature has voted support for the policy and voted budgets year after year.

Yet the logjam has continued. It continues for the many hundreds of children and really thousands of adults who are still in homes for special care and in private nursing homes who should be in community facilities. It continues for many thousands of ex-psychiatric patients who have been deinstitutionalized and who live in the slums of Parkdale or, as the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) discovered, in all-night doughnut stands or on the street. It continues for ex-offenders because we have not developed sufficient alternatives. It continues for children as well, but not to the same extent. It is a critical issue; it cuts across the whole spectrum of services for disadvantaged people.

By way of wrapping up, I continue to think the government should still move to impose as-of-right zoning bylaws upon municipalities that refuse to accept their responsibility for accepting community residential facilities. I do not see any justification for anybody holding out, because it is a human rights issue.

Secondly, I think the Minister of Community and Social Services should consider the suggestion that was put forward today that we do a major advocacy advertising campaign around the theme of who needs these kinds of facilities and why the community should welcome them and support them. A media campaign on radio and television partly directed to third-language communities would be a very helpful and wise expenditure of advertising dollars. If the minister wants to talk about how he might wisely spend the enormous amount of money that has been voted for advertising purposes every year, I make the modest proposal that that is one useful way to do it. He may even be able to get a share of it and not feel so left out.

Finally, if the government is not prepared to accept my opinion with respect to as-of-right zoning bylaws, whatever happened to the promise to promulgate a policy statement under the new Planning Act? I moved amendments in committee to the Planning Act to eliminate the

right of the municipality to establish exclusionary zoning bylaws. I was promised that when the new Planning Act was promulgated into law, the first thing the government would do would be to issue a policy statement under section 3 of the act which would deal with this very issue of group homes. It would give real leadership to municipalities and planners across the province about the will of this parliament in respect to this issue. I think that should be done.

If the government is not prepared to end exclusionary zoning bylaws and continues to rely on the voluntary approach, the very least the minister can do is to promulgate a statement under section 3 of the Planning Act.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I think the member for York South wanted to speak, but he will have to wait his turn. I would like to take a few minutes to speak on this topic. The minister will recall I had the pleasure of being the critic of his ministry for some time in the past. This issue has been raised on several occasions, as we all know.

Surely at the base of all this, we must start off with the principle that each one of us has the right to participate fully in our society. It is not a privilege for people to live amongst their peers. We should never think that only a certain number of us are qualified to live together. It is an unacceptable belief that some of us have the right to exclude a variety of other people from society. I, for one, want to support the establishment of group homes in our community.

Historically in this province—in North America in general, for that matter—we have overinstitutionalized our people. We have thought of every single excuse under the sun to lock up people. It is unfortunate. We lock up people because they are too old; we institutionalize them. We institutionalize people approaching older middle age in boarding homes or that type of thing if they have particular ailments. As the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McCellan) said previously, we institutionalize some of our young people because they are developmentally handicapped. We have done this for too long.

It is interesting to note that other countries historically have taken different approaches to ours. We met last year with a number of people, some of whom had visited Sweden in the past. We were told institutions, as we know them in this country, are very hard to find in some of those countries. They have practically done away with just about everything called an institution. They have tried to make each and every citizen participate as fully as possible in society. That is

very commendable. I think that is what every one of us wants in this Legislature.

4:40 p.m.

I do not take very kindly to accusing one member or another of doing things, especially when we know the member is not here and will not be here for a number of days. The member in question had already left before this debate came on. Some of us could even accuse others of raising the issue the day after the member left. We should put that aside for the moment and should not lower ourselves in that way. We should think of the principle of the issue. Are we in favour of deinstitutionalizing people and giving them the fullest opportunity to live in group homes rather than in institutions? I think that is the issue.

I had two personal experiences in the past. Perhaps the minister will recall a situation in the town of Rockland about a year and a half ago in which a group—actually it was the local association for the mentally retarded—started three group homes for the developmentally handicapped. The first was started and nobody even found out about it or said anything. It had been there for quite a while before residents even realized it was there. They thought, “It seems to be working out all right,” so they did not say anything.

On the other hand, another home was established in another part of town; there, a group of citizens was made aware of it. Those people were really upset and started to protest this move. They organized petitions, presented them to the town council and asked the town council not to permit the group home to be established.

Fortunately, because of the good, strong leadership of the mayor of Rockland, Mr. Lalonde—and perhaps the minister has had the opportunity in the past to meet that gentleman—and the members of his council, the people were convinced there was nothing wrong with this idea. They just had to get used to it. They had to understand that a group home in the community would not take away anything from what they already had.

When the petition was presented to me, I phoned some of the residents who had signed it and asked, “Why are you opposing developmentally handicapped people being in your community?” They gave me a variety of reasons which they thought were reasonable and then I indicated to them: “Do you not know a certain person who is developmentally handicapped and who does such and such a service right now in this town? He is gainfully employed in this town.” They answered, “We never really thought

of it that way, that this particular person is considered a developmentally handicapped individual.”

I just threw in a whole assortment of parallels with other people in the community who were there. The opposition eventually died down. The group homes are there now, fully established and work very well.

We have a case now in Orleans that the minister is probably aware of. It is called the Ampress Home. It is not a home for the developmentally handicapped, but nevertheless it is a group home. I believe the home is for emotionally disturbed youth, but perhaps the minister can correct that if that is not the case. The rumour mill has it today that the project will be abandoned over the next few days because of too many objections in that part of Orleans, namely, the Queenswood Heights area. Without having studied all the merits of the project, I would find as a principle that it would be most unfortunate if it were not allowed to go on. There has been quite vocal objection in that community over the last month and at the present time.

There seem to be two schools of thought in so far as the establishment of group homes is concerned. The minister discussed this in the past when he was addressing the estimates of his ministry. On the one hand, some people believe it is better to keep the establishment of the group home quiet; then the residents will notice that it is not really offensive. When they learn about it, they say: “It is all right. It has been here for a while and nothing has happened.”

In some communities that has worked. It has worked in places in my riding. I believe, though, it is morally wrong to approach things that way, by hiding facts from people in the hope they will ignore them because they do not know about them.

The other school of thought would disclose everything to the people. Once we do that, we require a public education process by which we can ensure people will not object to things on the mere grounds that they do not know the workings of group homes.

It is quite important to get back to the point raised by the member for Bellwoods that it is difficult for people to understand group homes if they have never heard of them. That is why the advocacy suggested by that member becomes very important. I have not been known in the past to speak favourably about government advertising. However, I am sure the minister recognizes that we all know a mechanism of public advocacy

is necessary because of the unfortunate misunderstanding.

It is regrettable that these misunderstandings occur everywhere across this province. I think we could do something positive to make people understand the meaningful contribution that group homes provide, not only for the residents but for all of society as well. They do afford a meaningful contribution from each one of us, and we should support group homes and encourage communities to understand them and not reject them.

Again, I wish to associate myself with those who suggested earlier that we need more in the way of advertising to help people understand group homes. I know the minister said we have had advertising and have tried to make people understand in the past and have gone beyond that stage. Maybe that is true in a certain way. However, it is obvious that not everyone has understood. Therefore, we will have to reiterate our concern as best we can to ensure that group homes in the province are not only tolerated but also supported by each of us.

Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, in politics a quality that distinguishes statesmen from opportunists is the ability, indeed the willingness, to do what is right from a broad public perspective, even at the risk of upsetting some prospective voters.

Unfortunately for the disadvantaged in our society, there appear to be a few opportunists in our political system. I too am distressed that a member of this Legislature has criticized the highly respected Reena Foundation, sponsors of proposed group homes in North York. I wish to God there were more foundations like the Reena Foundation that were concerned about their fellow man.

It has been reported that this member intends to ask the Ontario government to put a moratorium on the funding for the North York group homes. I too was very reassured today when the Minister for Community and Social Services stated emphatically that there will be no such holding back of funds for these badly need group homes in North York.

We all know there is an urgent need for group homes. Every member who has spoken already has stated this, and our government has long been committed to provide such services. In fact, the official policy of our government is to find means whereby as many people needing help as possible can find assistance in such deinstitutionalized settings.

Our government sees shutting people in large institutions—away from their local communities,

their families and their friends—as inhumane and uncivilized. This is especially so in an age when modern science and modern medicine have shown that retarded persons can be educated, that the mentally ill can be treated and that the physically handicapped can live normal and useful lives in a community setting.

I want to reaffirm, as a representative of this government, our continued commitment to the less fortunate in our society. I also want to restate our commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of all citizens of our province. In referring to the less fortunate, I am speaking of those Ontarians who, through no fault of their own, are limited in their ability to help themselves. I am speaking of the old, the very young, the disadvantaged, the handicapped and the infirm.

Over the past 20 years we have not neglected those who needed help most. Unlike the years of the Depression, we now have in place in Ontario the financial and social service programs so vital in helping individuals and families in our province. The absence of social programs during the Depression and the lack of comprehensive family and social services meant untold misery for great numbers of people.

4:50 p.m.

Today this government's social services sector comprises a major provincial budgetary consideration. About two thirds of Ontario's spending goes to support our social programs. They have a long history, going as far back as 20 years. Ontario witnessed, for example, the introduction of medicare, facilities for disturbed children, community support programs for the aged, the upgrading of income support and the introduction of public housing.

We have come far as a society because we realize we have a responsibility for those members less fortunate than ourselves. We now understand the individual's special problems are also the community's problems and our society's problem. This is especially true of those persons who need the services of group homes.

Group homes are the best form of health care we can offer people with these special needs. The problems some neighbourhoods have experienced have arisen not so much from group homes as from unsupervised rooming houses. Group homes have a potential not only to provide patients with care but also to enhance the security of neighbourhoods, and they should be welcomed in every community and neighbourhood and never shunned.

I am happy to know that opposition to group homes is not a majority position. In 1982,

professors at McMaster University did a study which found that only four out of 10 people in Toronto who live within a block of a group home object to it being so close. The professors also found it to be a myth that property values decline as a result of the presence of a group home in a neighbourhood. They examined 10 Toronto neighbourhoods and found no significant change in the volume of sales before, during or after the facility opened, nor were market values of houses ever affected.

We still have some serious flaws in our societal perceptions. For example, any time a person is given a label—my God, how I despise labels for human beings, especially official labels—people expect that person to pattern his role to fit the description. Once a youngster is labelled a delinquent or mentally retarded, people tend to treat him with reserve, suspicion and fear. It is natural for people to be afraid of something they do not know, but we also know from personal experience that familiarity creates tolerance for variety.

Opposition to group homes has sometimes occurred as an automatic reflex. This is almost always not based on experience but on what people imagine group homes are like. The most successful group homes are virtually invisible in their own neighbourhood. They fit in as a normal and acceptable part of the community.

When we talk about group homes, we are talking about providing the chance for each of us to receive care in a community setting. There is not one of us who is not aware that at some point in our lives we may need the care one gets in a group home. Ideally, it is a matter of each community looking after its own, providing warmth and caring amid familiar surroundings for those who cannot quite manage on their own.

In the past, that is how communities functioned. People looked after the less fortunate members of their community without questioning the right of those people to live in that community. They were simply accepted as part of normal, communal living. In those days, people needing help depended on the generosity and understanding of their neighbours.

Today, however, we live in a much more impersonal world. Unfortunately, there have been a number of very disturbing side effects of this phenomenon. Human beings are being threatened with anonymity. Anonymity is evident in the suburbs of cities and even in smaller communities where people no longer know or care about their next-door neighbours, let alone the people down the block.

Modern sociology and psychology texts inform us of the common consequences of anonymity. The textbooks call it alienation. In common language it is called isolation. In today's world, many individuals are isolated from one another. Indeed, many have lost the capability of communicating or interacting with or caring for others.

At the community level, this translates into a citizenry that no longer feels it is a true participant in our society. It also means citizens no longer feel a direct responsibility for the society in which they live or for the other individuals who share society with them.

In this sort of situation there develops a tendency to shift social and even moral responsibility for societal and individual wellbeing to the government. The tendency is to say, "Let the government take care of it." Governments can and do help; governments provide programs, facilities, funds, services and specialists. However, there are some things government simply cannot give. It cannot provide the understanding, the compassion and the dedication that are often necessary to deal with many human problems. These can only come from other caring human beings.

It is the people with determination, compassion and strength of character within a community who create a compassionate, responsible and strong community. Governments can create conditions that are conducive to good communities, but only the people within those communities can ensure the final quality of their own communities.

In our modern times it is easy to overlook the most crucial structure of all, that basic building block of our society, which influences all other societal developments. I am talking about the family and the community. Family and community life are vitally important to our society, because they determine the quality of the individual in our society. Today even economists would argue that in the information age the quality of human beings is becoming increasingly important for the wellbeing of our total society.

I am delighted to have had an opportunity to engage in this debate, and I am so pleased that all members of the House finally see the importance of group homes in this province.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I participate in the debate on this resolution, which has been moved by my colleague the member for Downsview.

I want to start by saying how proud I am of my good friend the member for Downsview and, if I may say so, of the other members of our party in the city of North York, who have displayed courage and leadership at a time when other politicians from other parties have displayed neither.

I am very proud, as proud as I have ever been, of members of my party, who have stood firm and tall at a time when others have taken a far lower road, a road that ultimately is going to hurt them not only personally but also politically.

I happen to think that when the community that is now objecting to the establishment of group homes has had time to reflect on what is being proposed, that community will welcome with open arms the handicapped and disabled people who will be coming into their community. I think they will have some sense of embarrassment at the politicians who have basically led them down the garden path with respect to what is going on.

I want to say a word in this debate because, as the member for Bellwoods has stated, our party was very much involved in the events surrounding the closure of the Ark Eden Nursing Home. I have met with the parents at the Ark Eden home on a number of occasions, and when I first met with them they were a very angry group of people. They were angry because they were frankly bewildered by the decision to close the home. They had all had histories of going from large institution to large institution; they all had horror stories to tell, basically, of governments that were not sufficiently sensitive in responding to them.

5 p.m.

They felt that once again the government had simply come down with a decision that, at the point when I first met with them, did not seem to them to make a lot of sense. It was as we began to discuss community alternatives and as we began to talk about what was going on in the community through last summer and into the fall that there was a very real change of heart on the part of this group of parents. As they saw the possibility of their children, or perhaps their brothers or sisters, getting a very different kind of care in the community—when they went to Hamilton, for example, and saw a group home there, an operation they felt good about—they said, “If only we could have that somewhere else, it would work.”

The concern the parents were expressing at that time was about the delay, about the time it was taking and the difficulty in establishing a real connection with the Ministry of Community and

Social Services. There were some communications problems with the Ministry of Health. There was a sense that some of their concerns were not registering with the government.

I can remember clearly the day I raised a question to the acting Minister of Health at that time, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), about the Ark Eden parents and about the fact they had been waiting a long time. It was soon after that question in this Legislature last fall that we got word the Reena Foundation had agreed to step in and provide the community alternatives the Toronto-based parents were looking for.

Much has been said about the work of the Reena Foundation. I simply want to say that as a group it has done tremendous service for the disabled and the handicapped in our society. I do not often agree with the member for Scarborough East, but I agree with her entirely when she says, “Would that we had more of these organizations;” nonprofit, charitable foundations eager and willing to provide a service to handicapped and disabled men and women who desperately need care, who desperately need love, who desperately need a place they can call their home, and many of whom have been looking for such a very long time to find a place they can call home.

I continue to be in touch with the parents at the Ark Eden Nursing Home. Frankly, I continue to be bewildered by the reaction of the politicians and others in the community who fail to understand the meaning of political leadership and of trying to allay fears and misunderstandings that have nothing to do with the facts of the case.

The mayor of the city of North York has attacked the Reena Foundation, as has the member for Yorkview. Those attacks and statements by the mayor of North York and the member for Yorkview are completely unfounded, uncalled for, unjustified and do not do a service to them, to the handicapped or to the residents of those communities who, when they realize exactly what is being proposed, are going to welcome those groups with open arms.

For the life of me, I cannot understand how it can be argued that handicapped or disabled people do not have exactly the same right to live in a community, a house or a home as anybody else in our society. It is a terrible statement about a society if it insists that those who are different, whose faces may be twisted, whose legs may be crippled, whose brains may not be working properly, somehow have to be stuck in an institution far removed from the rest of the world.

We have systematically overinstitutionalized people in the province. As the member for Bellwoods points out, the battle to get society to face up to the need for all of us to be treated with the same kind of humanity, regardless of our backgrounds, has been a long one, a battle to recognize that even those who cannot speak for themselves have certain rights and basic liberties which our society has to maintain and protect.

I do not think we have done enough to explain in pictures and words, in ways that will appeal to the human heart, exactly what it means when a group of people say, "No group homes." We have to appeal to the basic fundamental sense of decency in this province, which I think is profound, and show people pictures and words that will show some meaning. Why not give a platform, a forum for the parents of Ark Eden to talk about their children, simply to be able to say: "These are my kids; this is what they are like. These are people who deserve to live in a community"?

They come from all backgrounds. They are Italian, they are Spanish, they are Portuguese, they are of all ethnic backgrounds. It is something that can be expressed in any and every language. A government that has millions to spend on a talking furnace surely has money to spend on people who are appealing to the human heart with respect to this very basic message. It is not one that can be allowed to divide us.

I say to the minister, and I say in all sincerity, that I was proud of what he said today; I was proud he said it as forcefully as he did. I am proud of my colleagues on this side who have spoken up forcefully and have gone to meetings where there are 1,200 or 1,500 or 2,000 people and who have had the courage to say this is not the end of the world but something that simply reflects the basic desire of all people of all backgrounds to live in a community home.

But we as a Legislature have to do more. I am delighted with the answer the minister gave me today when he said he is prepared to work with us in putting forward a joint resolution. We want to have on the record of this Legislature not simply that this debate has occurred but that there is a common expression of feeling on the part of this Legislature that we have to speak out for those who have no voice; that we have to make sure there is no misunderstanding and no distortion; that we have to draw the line somewhere with respect to the behaviour, frankly, of some of our colleagues in political life and say there are some situations you cannot take political advantage of

and that you must not take political advantage of; and that there are some situations in which it is important for people to speak the truth, even when that truth may not be exactly what a group may want to hear. I think we have to have the courage to do that.

We are going to be coming back to the minister in order to address this question of a joint resolution. I think it is a matter that transcends the everyday politics of this province. It is a matter that has to be clearly stated on the record.

I very much appreciate the chance to participate in this debate.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with voices on all sides of the House that have today expressed some consensus, I believe, on an issue that really rises above municipal boundaries and above political boundaries. It speaks to the kind of direction in which we would like to take this province.

It would be very easy for me to descend to the level of political debate and the kind of name-calling and besmirching of reputations that some other members of the Legislature have sunk to. However, I believe the issue before us on the table is an issue that is far greater than the situation of four group homes within the city of North York. It speaks to the tremendous divisiveness that in a sense has been fermented by the inability of this Legislature to come across with some province-wide legislation dealing with the issue of group homes.

When you look at a situation, for example, like that in the city of Etobicoke at present, where we are embroiled in an extensive debate over the issue of as-of-right zoning, it is clear that the group home situation is not simply one of a municipality, one of a group of individuals or one of a group of politicians; it is a concern that really stems in large part from noninformation or ill-information or from a population not having access to all the facts. I think it is our job as legislators not only to have access and to provide access to all the facts but also to provide leadership in this area.

As far as I am concerned and as far as my party is concerned, we would certainly like to go one step further than the all-party resolution that was suggested in the House today. It is unfortunate that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) was unable to be here to join the debate today, because what we would like to see, and indeed what we have called for as part of our party policy for some years, is a province-wide piece of legislation that clearly indicates for the record that all municipalities

across this province have a responsibility to all their citizens.

5:10 p.m.

The member for Downsview indicated in his question in the House today: "Reactions of the community have been stirred up by unscrupulous people who have been spreading all kinds of lies on the nature of group homes that will house handicapped people. In the community today everybody is saying that ex-convicts, prostitutes and drug addicts will be in those group homes."

I want to point out for the record that I have a group home in my riding for ex-convicts. When that group home was introduced, it received the full support of my community, and I can honestly say that in my three years as a member of the Legislature I have never once had a complaint about the group home for ex-convicts.

I would like the member for Downsview to clarify his intention for the record. Is he supporting only group homes for the physically and developmentally handicapped, or is he clearly on the record as supporting group homes for all individuals regardless of what their past background might have been?

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I said, and I repeat to the Legislature, that these are the types of lies that have been spread door to door to stir up the emotions of people who are very sensitive. They have nothing to do with my position towards those group homes. Perhaps the member for Hamilton Centre should ask members of her own party why that is happening in that part of North York.

Ms. Copps: The member still has not cleared up the question that is certainly begged in the question he asked in the Legislature today, and that is whether his position is in support of all group homes, as is the position of the Liberal Party, or whether it is his position that he will accept and encourage only group homes for the developmentally handicapped.

When I challenge the Legislature to show some leadership in this area, it is to deal with the myriad of problems surrounding the introduction of all group homes, not only group homes for children or for the developmentally handicapped, but also, as the minister knows from his own experience, group homes for ex-convicts; group homes that can assist those who have decided to try to make a change in life. I know the minister has spoken out very strongly in favour of that, and I appreciate that. I certainly have every support for the work he has done in this area.

What we are faced with today is not a single-issue personality and political clash in the

Legislature but a challenge to which we could all rise in our communities. In my own neighbourhood, I live just down the street from a group home that is literally about eight houses away and across the street from another facility which houses former psychiatric patients; again, as a neighbour, as a resident, as a politician and as a constituent, I have never received any complaints about the conduct or the maintenance of any of the group homes in my riding.

While all of us can respect and understand how misunderstandings can occur, it certainly is the responsibility of every member of the Legislature to encourage full public information and full participation in the process as well as to encourage a leadership role by the provincial government so that we can avoid the rather divisive situation that presents itself when one encounters a different group home policy from municipality to municipality, depending upon the local government.

From the comments made today by the member for Scarborough East, we know, for example, that in the Rosedale area of the city of Toronto we would be very supportive of group homes that would be introduced in that neighbourhood if a proposal were put forth. It is basically the consensus of all members of this House that we live in a community that includes all kinds of people from all backgrounds and that it is not only our shared responsibility but also our shared positive experience to have a chance to share neighbourhoods with group homes and others.

One of the difficulties we face in modern society is the fact that too often we are segregated into our private little neighbourhoods, into our apartments, and we do not have a chance to have exposure to the broad spectrum of experience. If I can reiterate the comments made by the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) in reading the letter into the record, one thing we can learn from those who have gone into the group home experience, many of whom are moving from institutions such as Ark Eden, is that these people have shown a tremendous amount of courage.

In taking up the cause, the Reena Foundation has shown its commitment. What we must do as legislators is support that commitment in every way possible, both on the party level as well as on an individual constituency level.

I think we can take that one step further and look, for example, to the recommendations that have been made, I believe more than two years ago now, by the Ontario Social Development

Council with respect to the introduction of province-wide legislation.

That legislation must be two-pronged in that it should attack two separate problem areas. It should attack the area of group homes in general for a province-wide piece of legislation. For the second area, it should look at the endorsement of the second-level lodging bylaw that has been embraced by the city of Hamilton as an example of a province-wide, second-level lodging standard across the whole area.

One of the difficulties faced by local residents in coming to an understanding of group homes in their neighbourhoods is that many of them are confused and think they will be inundated by unlicensed and unsupervised boarding homes and there may be buildings—we know this from our own experience—that can sometimes fall into a state of decay, whether it is absentee landlords, rooming houses, etc.

The government could bring in a two-pronged piece of legislation. We would look first and foremost at a principle, stating that we accept as a right the existence of group homes in every municipality across this province. Secondly, we would introduce a second-level lodging bylaw to ensure that in areas where we have private sector involvement, whether it be through private absentee landlords or homes for special care, there be a province-wide standard.

This would ensure, not only for the good of the area residents but, more important, for the good of the residents themselves, that we set a certain standard to make sure people would be happy to call second-level-lodging neighbours their neighbours.

That two-pronged effort would go a long way to solve the kind of dilemma which recurs on a fairly regular basis in this Legislature. If the minister today will provide some leadership in that direction, he can be assured of the full support of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I too am pleased to rise in this emergency debate that has been raised through a resolution by the member for Downsview. I see this as an important subject, not just for a municipality but for the whole province and for all of humanity.

I come with three perspectives today. One is as a clergyman, and I would like to touch on my background as I see this issue; the second is as a politician, and the third is my own personal perspective.

As an ordained clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, I have worked in large institutions. I have worked with the kinds of people we are

talking about, who at one time were largely housed in great institutions. Our province was one of the earlier jurisdictions to provide such places for those who needed them.

They are special people. They are removed from their homes because the family cannot look after them, or the family unit is not large enough or does not have the services to provide for them.

In the past in this province, we have provided institutional care which has been excellent. We have tried to do a job for people who needed this attention, needed shelter, love, food, caring and special treatment. When we began to see that institutions, though good, were not the only way to deal with people who could cope a little more on their own, we began to see a movement out of the institutions into homes within the communities.

I was able to work with one of those homes, along with the parish I was in. These people were suddenly given the chance to go to the post office, to go and buy a chocolate bar or attend the church of their choice. In so doing, they began to find a sense of confidence, a sense of personal fulfilment they could not find in an institutional setting.

It was a gratifying experience, not only to see the personal sense of opening up like a flower that these people had, but also to see the way the community responded in a positive way, because people accepted these special people for what they were, who they were and what their needs really were.

5:20 p.m.

The social consciousness of our province is being struck more and more with humanitarian concerns about those people who cannot help themselves. As a society, we have an important responsibility to care for them, and not just care for them physically, but emotionally, spiritually and socially to allow there to be a context within which they can have that sense of being someone who is important not only in the eyes of God the Almighty but also in his own eyes and in the eyes of his fellow men.

Through this kind of opening up and the tearing down of the walls, we can begin to see some of these people flower and become something more of what they are capable of being. What we see happening here in our Legislature today through this debate is a breaking down of tunnel vision and an opening up of our vision to see people for what they can be and should be.

As I see this debate taking place, I guess it is a matter that we should judge not that we be not

judged, for with what judgement we judge, we shall be judged, and he who beholdest the mote that is in his brother's eye and does not behold the beam that is within his own, shall be judged. All of us have to have that sense of mission to our fellow man.

Maybe the one sting in our debate is that people take pleasure in pointing to another member or other people within this House. I see it as more of an education of all people. Those of us in positions of responsibility and leadership and those of us who have been given that can go out and have the courage to give that leadership to the community.

This leads me to being a politician. The political perspective can often be a very easy one, but I commend the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) for the courage he has had long before today. He has been able to say, "Our government is looking at closing down certain institutions and the people from those institutions will be going to group homes." At the same time, our own minister is saying: "I know this is for the betterment of those residents. I know that when they go out from Pine Ridge"—which is adjoining my riding—"into the community, it is going to be for their welfare and their wellbeing and they will benefit from it."

He has been criticized for this. Today he is not being criticized, but before today I know the Minister of Community and Social Services has taken his share of lumps. I am just glad he has had the courage and an ongoing commitment to those people who have problems and are special to say, "Let us do something better for them."

Some might have a short-term suffering by virtue of job changes and the closure of these institutions, as we have had. But in the deinstitutionalizing process we have had a strong minister willing to stand up and be counted and to say, "I am willing to do something for these people because to me they are important." I am seeing that happen today, and all of us are glad he has had that role and responsibility.

The Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean) echoed the kind of sentiment that has been implicit in the role our own Minister of Community and Social Services has taken.

The symbol of North York contains a heart and the words, "The city with heart." I think there is a lot of heart in North York and I think there is heart in every community. It is just a matter of those people within the communities needing to have some good leadership to show and to say: "You are not just having something dumped on you. You are not just having something you are

not going to like. Here is how it is going to work. We are going to work with the community and with the neighbourhood."

Once they see what is going on, those who are there will accept it as something that is worth while, not just for themselves—because they will benefit as well from the group homes—but especially for those who are in the group homes themselves.

As a government, we have to accept responsibility to be advocates of good things.

Mr. Stokes: I thought you said you were not a part of the government.

Mr. Cousens: I am and I am proud of it. Today is another one of those days when I especially share in the glory that our government is doing something that is good. Today we are all eagles. Let us say that.

Mr. Kerrio: We know what happened.

Mr. Cousens: The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) should control himself.

Let us be advocates of the good things. When our government discussed the Constitution, a consensus developed. On this main issue that is addressed today, we too can be advocates in a positive way for those people who need it.

One group of politicians with a special problem is school trustees. When I was a school trustee in the York regional board, we had special education classes off away from the rest of the students. The students did not really know what special education was all about except that it was a "we" and "they" situation. Now there is a movement afoot in which we are bringing special education students into the schools and integrating them into a regular program.

My young child is beginning to appreciate that in his school there are kids who are different from him, but he also understands them. I am sure that when he grows up he is not going to make the judgement about them that maybe we did in our day when we did not have that proximity to them or see them at first hand.

My personal comments have touched on my background as a clergyman. I look at myself as a politician and at my own role as a member of a community in which we, in our own community, have accepted group homes in a good way. It is not always easy because there is an educational process that has to take place between those who are running the group home and the government. The people who are in the home have to be worked with so that they are not unknowingly upsetting people within their community. I have seen something happen within our own community where group homes have existed and

have come to be accepted for the good they can do.

Friends who live on Indian Road in High Park-Swansea were attacked by a number of people, who said, "Hey, you do not want this in your neighbourhood." The people to whom I talked said, "We want them here because we feel it will complement the kind of full and rich community we have." We have so much to be thankful for in this country. All one has to do is look beyond our borders into these situations and realize those people have needs as well.

Earlier this afternoon the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson), the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson) and I were meeting with people who were concerned about the special needs of people in Ethiopia where there is starvation, hunger, famine and suffering of a kind we cannot even begin to think of.

We have a form of suffering within our own society and within our area. Let its blight be removed and let us work together in a positive way so that these people who are Canadian citizens and live within our jurisdiction can live, move and have a sense of personal satisfaction and fulfilment that makes them feel part of one of the greatest societies in the world.

I thank the member for Downsview for his contribution and all honourable members for giving us this chance to rethink some of the basics of our society.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the member for Downsview for bringing this motion before us because it is a very fundamental human rights issue that we are debating. I am agreeably surprised at the apparent unanimity of the House on this issue, in view of the fact that we do not have provincial legislation on the books making it part of official plans and municipal zoning bylaws to allow group homes as a right.

Legislation speaks much louder than words. This is really what we are looking for, if all the pious statements we have heard from the opposite side of the House are to be considered as anything more than crocodile tears about the plight of the handicapped and disadvantaged who are not able to be housed in group homes in residential neighbourhoods.

We are discussing the right of a section of the human race to integrate into the community and to have some assistance to integrate, if it needs it. The question we are debating is whether these people are to be condemned to an institution or to an industrial area, which is not a suitable community in which to live one's life. It is a matter of compassion and understanding. It is a

matter of whether we consider that these people belong to the human race.

5:30 p.m.

I have had experience in my riding with opposition to a group home, which was initiated by an aldermanic candidate who called a public meeting. The meeting then led to the buildup of so many false fears and so much opposition that ultimately the group home was stopped. I regret to say it appeared to have been stopped by the refusal of mortgage money from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp., which was apparently authorized by the Liberal minister in charge of that agency.

Since that group home was stopped, a group of citizens has now started to look for a new site, but it is somewhat hampered in looking for a site by its fears that a continuation of these unfounded fears—about the effect on property values or the effect on the neighbourhood of permitting handicapped and disadvantaged people there—will ultimately cause a second flare-up of opposition. Therefore, this group is trying to find sites that are not in residential neighbourhoods, and in a way that is defeating the whole purpose of its efforts to found a group home.

I sat on the standing committee on general government in 1982 which was considering the revision of the Planning Act. It was a major revision and it took us a good number of months to go through the clause-by-clause debate. Twice during that debate members of the NDP moved amendments which would have put into the legislation an official approval of group homes, an encouragement of group homes, and which would have prevented zoning that would deny the right of group homes to be established in a residential area.

The first time, during the discussion on the objectives of the official plan, we moved that the authorization of group homes should be one of the social objectives and one of the rights of residents of a municipality. A group of non-related people should be permitted to live in group homes in residential neighbourhoods. We wanted this to be added to the Planning Act so there would be no uncertainty about the government's support of that view and there would be no need for long debates about whether a group home should be allowed in a municipality.

We would not have the situation which has arisen in Etobicoke where the Etobicoke council is appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board to oppose the zoning of a group home. The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) and the NDP aldermen are not joining with the Etobicoke council.

The NDP alderman opposed the Etobicoke council's appeal, but it is before the OMB right now. It would not be there if it had been put into the Planning Act that group homes could be part of an official plan and that there would be as-of-right zoning.

That first amendment to change the official plan was defeated with all the Conservative members present voting against it. That is what resulted in its defeat.

Later, when we got to the zoning section in the clause-by-clause debate to subsection 34(8), the NDP again moved an amendment which would have guaranteed as-of-right zoning for group homes, with the exception of limiting the number of group homes within a geographical area to a reasonable number. We put in this exception to try to get support for the principle of as-of-right zoning after the earlier rejection of putting it into the official plan as a principle. But even there all the Conservative members on the committee voted solidly against it and defeated it.

What we are facing today in this debate is crocodile tears about the handicapped but no evidence of action to amend the Planning Act and make it mandatory for municipalities to recognize as-of-right zoning for group homes. Then we would not be faced with the situation we now have in Yorkview, where a number of people are once again building up false fears about a group home and claiming they have been denied the right to consultation.

If consultation is put into the legislation, it is an invitation to people to incite to discriminate, and we should prohibit that as we do under the Human Rights Code. If we say prior consultation is necessary, it is an opportunity to whip up false fears of lost property values, and these have been disproved by many studies. I do not see that we should put into the legislation the right to prior consultation for a group of people to join together in a residence in order to live in the community as the rest of us live.

We know from experience in my own riding and from experience in other municipalities that prior consultation simply allows people to build up these false fears. Of course, the only way to overcome those false fears is by a strong program of public education on the great merits of group homes, and on the fact that many people who live in group homes become much more a part of the community, become much more valuable persons and lead much fuller and better lives. That is really what we are aiming at, and that is the bottom line.

I am mystified by the position of the Liberal Party speakers because they have not expressed any condemnation of their member who appears to be supporting the group that is opposed to this group home.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not hear the beginning of the debate, but I think it is a very good move on the part of the Legislature that this matter be brought before all of us and before all the people of Ontario so we can talk about it.

I want to say in the beginning I support the movement of group homes and I support the idea that it be in legislation. I was a part of the general government committee that reviewed the new Planning Act, and I think this is possibly the area where we should have put in some measures whereby every community would realize it had a responsibility towards this segment of the population.

I am not so sure that every person who is in a group home is located in the best place. I happen to live very close to the Southwestern Regional Centre, which is very close to the village of Cedar Springs, and the nearest town is Blenheim. Many of those children have been abandoned by their families, who may have moved out west, gone back to the Atlantic coast or simply stopped corresponding with their children in the hospital. When those children are put out into group homes or into a community, very often it is the nearby community of Blenheim; so I have had the opportunity to watch them.

5:40 p.m.

I end up puzzled sometimes when I see some of these children. I am thinking of one in particular who calls me quite often. I give him a lot of my time and I am quite willing to do so. He is not really the happiest person in the world because he is just on the borderline of being about the same as any of us, but he has a lower level of intelligence and he recognizes his own shortcomings. It is rather interesting that, when he calls, he speaks in a most cultured voice and uses very large words. You would think you were talking to an English graduate.

The problem is that he knows the words but does not understand how he should react in the community. He supplements his income by cutting grass, but he is as likely to cut grass at two or three o'clock in the morning as during the usual working hours. I ask myself whether that individual and others like him would be better off in an institution or a group home. I support the idea of group homes, but I question whether every person in one should be there.

Very shortly after I was elected I was called in on a dispute over a group home in one of my rural towns. The council was very much against it. I went to the council and spoke in favour of it. Later I went to the group home and talked to the manager. I also talked to some of the local people and poured a little oil on the troubled waters. Ultimately the group home was allowed to stay. About two weeks later one of the young chaps at the home found somebody's car. I suppose the key had been left in the car and he knew how to start it. Anyway, in this sleepy little village, before they stopped him he had run into five other cars. That was the end of the group home.

There is a question about whether a group home should be in a small retirement hamlet. The residents of the community might not have an understanding of the people in those homes, being of an age when their patience is not as great as it should be. There are situations like that where people have the right to object. Because we have not been positive in our assessment and outlook on this thing, we leave that opportunity open to people. I think it is regrettable.

Sometimes politicians find themselves in these unfortunate positions. I found myself in such a position shortly after I was elected when the Honourable Harry Parrott wanted to put the main waste disposal facility for Ontario in my backyard—

Mr. Stokes: In Harwich township?

Mr. McGuigan: I am not too far away. I have a farm near there.

I found myself in a tough situation. As an environmentalist, I knew we had a terrible problem that had to be handled. Yet these people—who were good friends of mine and were sensible and caring people—were very upset about it. I was heartened by a statement of Robert Sugarman, former vice-chairman of the International Joint Commission, which deals with the waterways between the United States and Canada. He said citizens had a duty to object very strongly to waste facilities, to put pressure on government to provide the best facilities possible. I took heart in that and joined the movement, which eventually ended in victory for Harwich township in that it led to the formation of the Ontario Waste Management Corp.

This organization has been spending millions of dollars searching all over the province and has now narrowed down the search to six or eight sites. They are putting in a process that whoever is the recipient may not be joyous about it, nevertheless it is going to be a process that is the best in the world. I believe, and I think most

people in the Legislature believe, it will be safe for those around it.

One of the processes was an environmental assessment hearing on the Harwich dump. It turned out that dump was an absolute horror story. I was so grateful afterwards that I had taken the decision I had, even though it was one that troubled me a great deal. That facility was an absolute horror story. All sorts of wastes and leachates were getting into the drains and water systems in the community. Had it been allowed to go ahead, even with the plans the government had at the time, it would have been a great danger to us.

I cite that not knowing the background of what happened with my colleague the member for Yorkview. I do not know the individual situation, but I point out that all of us have some difficult decisions to make. It is one of the fields that are wide open in Ontario, with communities saying, "We have more than our share." Some communities want to have less than their share. People talk about the downgrading of property values, which we all know does not happen.

In that sort of climate, these situations do develop and put politicians in a bad situation. I believe we should all endorse the idea of having a system whereby we put as many people out into the community as possible, to bring the richness of that community to them and to show the richness those people have and the relationships they can develop.

There is a chap who has been phoning me about every two or three weeks. I have learned a great deal from talking to that chap.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to take part in this debate.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to make a few comments in this debate. As my colleague the member for Downsview put it this afternoon in question period, it is an issue that in far too many respects has taken on a negative face, and it should not have a negative face.

There are occasions and situations when the not-in-my-backyard syndrome and the fears that go with that syndrome are legitimate and fully understandable. As the minister said during question period, because of the misinformation that went out in the North York case, the response of the community was understandable.

There are far too many situations where the information that goes out is not the correct information. We have seen communities oppose

the establishment of social programs and social entities within the sphere of their communities because of misinformation on far too many occasions. The present situation in North York is not the first. Although I would like to believe the minister is correct when he says it will be the last, unfortunately, that is not likely to be the case.

5:50 p.m.

I had a situation in my own riding where, because of serious misinformation, a community for a short time opposed the establishment of a day care centre; it was a rather unusual day care centre, as a matter of fact, a day care centre where not only the normal children of working parents would be served but also many children we are talking about in this group home case, handicapped children, would be served.

It was a day care centre that was unique in another respect. It was and is the only 24-hour day care centre in Hamilton and, as such, it provided a situation that spawned a lot of misinformation about how this facility would operate. The controversy around this day care centre went on for five or six weeks before we reached the stage where the community fully and clearly understood what was being asked of it and altered its opposition to that centre.

Ultimately, this centre has operated in a fashion that is very acceptable to the community; it has caused no serious problems for the community and, in fact, it has created and provided a whole range of benefits to the community that do not exist for many other communities in this province.

For us to be in a position of having to be here today speaking about the need for group homes for the retarded and the handicapped in our society, for children who obviously face much greater barriers to overcome than most of us ever will, and to see the kind of misinformation cranked out in so many cases around facilities like this series of four group homes in North York, is very frustrating and even frightening in some respects.

The kinds of services these children need are so important. On the other hand, it is very difficult to understand how people can get upset and worried because the people who will be in the facility look different, act differently or whatever may be the ultimate personal feeling that home owners get about why they should oppose this kind of facility in addition to whatever misinformation exists.

For far too long we have hidden the kinds of problems our mentally retarded and handicapped young people have. I have a brother-in-law who

is mildly retarded and who waited some considerable number of years to get into a group home, where he is now. I have seen the changes in that young man, not only the changes in his much more outgoing outlook but also the changes in his attitudes about his future. He has a much happier attitude about his future and a much less desperate outlook on life than he had just two and a half short years ago, when he was in a state of almost total confusion and fear about what his future would be as he watched his parents grow older and as he was left trying to decide for himself what his future held for him when they were no longer there to look after him.

The importance of these kinds of facilities has been repeated by a number of the speakers this afternoon. I just wanted to add a few personal comments about the very dire need for them and the obligation for all of us in this House to do whatever is necessary to see that we have not only good quality group home facilities in Ontario but also greater numbers of them.

We must do whatever is necessary in the communities in our ridings to ensure that the communities being asked to house these facilities fully understand not only what they are but the huge and growing need for them in terms of the way in which we deal with and our attitudes towards the mentally handicapped in our society.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record as supporting the concept of group homes and their ability to have site selection so they are able to go anywhere in our communities across Ontario. Our position for some years—I think nigh on to three years—has been that we believe there should be provincial legislation requiring second-level housing across Ontario.

Some years ago—and it must be at least eight or nine years—in my own community of Fort Frances, a group home was set up that dealt with juveniles who had been referred by the courts and the children's aid society. By accident or by chance, it happened to be behind a piece of property I owned at that time.

A number of the neighbours in the area came to me and asked if I, on their behalf and along with them, would oppose such a home. At that time, I did not know very much about what a group home was or what it was trying to achieve. My first, initial and gut reaction was that I would not oppose it. I felt there had to be a place for such a facility. I did not oppose it, and told both my neighbours and constituents I was not prepared to do so.

As a matter of fact, there was not one problem as a result of that group home in Fort Frances. I

never once received any complaint from any of the neighbours or the people in the area regarding it.

I suppose we have seen a great deal of ignorance surrounding this issue. Perhaps all of us are somewhat to blame for not educating the public and putting forward the propositions that I believe have been so eloquently put forward today by people on all sides of the House.

I also suggest that part of the problem seems to be the recession and a certain sense of meanness

that has set into our society as a result of that recession. I believe the people in our communities are of a generous mind—I will not say of a liberal mind—particularly in these matters, and when the facts are placed before them and they understand what these policies and these group homes are trying to achieve, across this province we shall see not only acceptance of them but also those who, in the neighbourhoods where they go, will actively support them.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, April 17, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 17, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

OSAP APPLICATIONS

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: A week or 10 days ago I raised with the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) serious concerns which I had about reports from within the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and outside the department, in the educational field to be precise, about the fact that Ontario student assistance program forms would be delayed this year by at least two months; they would be unavailable in March, although they are usually available then, and would not be available until some time in early May.

The minister rose in her place on April 9 to answer my question by saying that the colleges and universities would receive those application forms in the very near future and that there would not be a two-month delay. I was pleased to know that.

I am very concerned that the minister did not deal with the fact there is going to be a delay and that tens of thousands of Ontarians in high school will not receive their OSAP application forms until May or perhaps later.

We are told by ministry officials today the reason for the delay, the reason tens of thousands of young Ontarians are not going to get their application forms at the high school level until mid-May, is they were stood down at the Queen's Printer because the bicentennial poster had priority. That is a very serious matter and the minister ought to have dealt with it.

Mr. Speaker: I must point out to the honourable member, as I am sure he is already aware, that is hardly a point of privilege. However, I am sure the minister will take note of your remarks.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform members of the Legislature of the state visit to Canada and Ontario of the President of the Republic of Portugal and Mrs. Eanes. President Eanes is visiting Canada

following an invitation by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1977.

President Eanes is the first Portuguese head of state to visit Canada. The current visit includes stops in Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal. A scheduled visit to St. John's, Newfoundland, had to be cancelled because of weather conditions. Instead, the Portuguese party visited Halifax.

Today a luncheon in honour of President and Mrs. Eanes is being given by the Premier (Mr. Davis). A number of ministers and members of the Legislature are attending—that is kind of obvious—including the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and the leader of the third party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae).

The President, who was elected by universal suffrage independent of political parties, will complete his second mandate in 1985. He is very popular in Portugal and his visit to Toronto today comes at a time of national celebration for his countrymen. The Portuguese are marking 10 years of democracy this month. President Eanes has been a chief exponent of "open, clear democracy" since the 1974 revolution in Portugal. As army chief of staff, he helped maintain the democratic regime established by the revolution.

Canada and Portugal have long-standing historic ties. Records of navigation of the North Atlantic reveal contact as far back as the 15th century.

Canada and Portugal work together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations.

There are more than 300,000 immigrants and Canadian citizens of Portuguese origin living in Canada, 200,000 of whom reside in Ontario, 100,000 in Metro Toronto and, I might add, 1,500 in Strathroy.

I am sure the members of the Legislature join me in extending warmest greetings to President and Mrs. Eanes.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have an important first question for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), who I understand is not going to be here right away but is expected somewhat later. If the chief government whip could indicate my interest in raising a question

with the minister, I would very much appreciate it.

GROUP HOMES

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my Irish friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), the Minister of Community and Social Services. It concerns his ministry's policy of closing six centres for the developmentally handicapped in Ontario. As the minister will know, one of the centres slated for closure is D'Arcy Place in the great city of Cobourg, where last Friday his Conservative colleague the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) convened a press conference to discuss ways and means of perhaps perpetuating that important part of the Northumberland community.

At that press conference the honourable member said, respecting the future of D'Arcy Place, "One other time when a delegation came up re D'Arcy Place, I asked the minister whether I could ask a question in the House and he said, 'If you do, then I will close it for sure,' so I have been pretty cautious ever since."

Can the Minister of Community and Social Services indicate whether it is the policy of his ministry that the criterion on the basis of which he proceeds to close or keep open such centres as D'Arcy Place is whether members of this House raise questions in this assembly?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, first, I never said any such thing. Second, I would expect the acting leader of the Liberal Party to know better than to ask.

Mr. Conway: The minister's problem is not with this side of the House. His problem is with his colleague the member for Northumberland who said he said that.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: Can the minister confirm statistics that have been brought to our attention about 45 per cent of the men and women who have already been displaced by the closure of the centres in Cobourg, Aurora, Goderich, Brockville, St. Thomas and Whitby? Can he confirm that of the people already displaced as a result of his ministry's policy in this respect, 45 per cent have already been re-established in larger institutions? If so, does that not represent a full and flagrant contradiction of the government's policy of greater reliance on community-based services and on smaller institutions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is categorically untrue and I would challenge the acting leader of the Liberal Party to produce the figures according to which he made a statement such as that.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether, in his opinion, there is any chance D'Arcy Place will be kept open, given that it is quite unique among the institutions that are designated for closure, having group homes onsite as a transitional process? Is there any chance that one will be maintained?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I do not like to give any false hope, in particular to employees who have to make choices. That is really why we announced the total five-year program at the time we did.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister announced it to save money.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What was that?

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If one is going to mumble, one should at least mumble intelligently.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If there are new circumstances brought to my attention, I am prepared to look at D'Arcy Place.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, does the minister recall attending a meeting at the Bluewater Centre and singing the praises of the facilities there? Does he recall indicating to the staff that such excellent facilities and such excellent programs for the developmentally handicapped would not close, that there was no fear of such facilities closing, then less than a year later he announced their closure?

Is it not true the minister closed these centres to make room for the young offenders with the introduction of the Young Offenders Act in Ottawa, something the minister should have been prepared for three years ago? Now that he has been caught off guard he has decided to close these centres, to move out the developmentally handicapped in order to make room for the young offenders. Is that not true? Is that not the reason these centres are being closed?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, that question was once addressed to the Premier (Mr. Davis), I believe by the same honourable member, and since he likes to get punched in the mouth twice, here it comes. That is the silliest, most stupid and most idiotic statement I have yet heard in this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I had a second question which I view as an important question for the Minister of Labour. I will stand it down until his arrival in the House.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson). In their absence and that of the Premier, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) and the government House leader (Mr. Wells), we would like to stand down our two leadoff questions until such time as somebody arrives. We will proceed with rotation until that time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: It is not my responsibility to provide for attendance.

Mr. McClellan: We are just asking for the opportunity to stand down the leadoff questions for a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I will accept a new question from the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton).

Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I understood my friend the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) to say he was standing down the first two leadoff questions for the third party and would assume if that is the case, and I may have misunderstood, the questions should then begin here with the first private members' questions.

Mr. Speaker: Absolutely.

ARDA PROGRAM

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Agriculture and Food tell the more than 400 farmers of this province who are leasing land under the agricultural and rural development agreement what his plans are for that land? Is he going to give them an opportunity to renew the lease?

Is the minister suggesting the rate at which the lease is charged is going to go up to something in the order of one percentage point below the Farm Credit Corp. rate of 14 5/8 per cent? If so, does he not agree that kind of rate is simply not affordable to the people in eastern and northern Ontario?

Does the minister not think it is fair that he should announce now what his intentions are for that ARDA land? These farmers have to plan now what they are going to do with that land, whether they are going to plant it, fertilize it and so on. Is he going to tell them right away what his intentions are for that ARDA land?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will recall that when the ARDA program began and people entered into leases for the initial five years it was at a certain given rate. They entered into those leases on the understanding that if they went into a second five-year lease there would be a different rate.

I am not going to try now to recall all the details of the formula, but I know the member is familiar with them. There are a number of instances where people at the end of the second five years have elected not to buy the properties. The original intention of the program was that after the two five-year leases, people would pick up the land or give it up so that others might have it.

We are reviewing the program at this time as to what our policy should be, and as soon as we have concluded that review, made some decisions and discussed it with Management Board and cabinet, I will be happy to report back to the House.

Mr. Riddell: What are we to tell the farmers? I just spent a lot of last week in northern Ontario. The farmers do not know what to do. They do not know whether to go ahead and plant the land they have been leasing or whether to put fertilizer on it, because the minister will not tell them whether he will give them an opportunity to re-lease.

What do I tell a man like Mr. Stymiest, a farmer whose name came to the minister's attention not too long ago? He has 100 acres of ARDA land. He is waiting for the minister to make up his mind as to whether he can renew the lease on that land. He is holding up his operation; he does not know whether to plant or fertilize it.

There are about 400 farmers in the same boat who do not know whether the government is going to do away with the ARDA program, give them an option to lease, to renew the lease or to buy the ARDA land. Why cannot the minister tell them right now what his plans are so they can go ahead and plan their year's activities?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We are well aware of the factors the member mentions. I have been up north several times recently; I did not notice anybody planting up there yet, nor are they likely to for a little while. I can assure the member we are well aware of the pressures of time, and we will make a decision in a timely fashion and convey the decision to the farmers involved.

I remind the member that there are and have been various points where the farmers could have exercised the option to buy the property. I hope the member was not trying to imply in his

question that they have been denied the right to buy the property, because that is not the case.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the minister's comment that they have not started to plant up there yet and therefore there is no hurry.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: If the minister knows anything about farming, surely he realizes they have to plan weeks and months in advance to get their financing and everything else.

With regard to any new leases or renewal of leases, will the minister assure this House that any increase in the cost of those leases will not exceed the average farm income, or at least average farm prices, from the time the ARDA lands were originally leased?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, the policy as it was introduced a number of years ago and agreed to by the lessees was that in the initial five-year period rent would be, I believe, seven per cent of its value, and in the second five-year period it would go up to the order of 11 or 14 per cent, including any improvements. In most cases, through the ARDA program we have invested considerable amounts of money in drainage and other kinds of improvements to the properties in question.

Last year, in discussing the renewal rates with Management Board, the board agreed to the establishment of a rate at a level less than the formula would have required; a formula that had been agreed to at the outset by the individual farmers.

I will certainly take into account the member's concerns. Again I reiterate that we are well aware of the pressures on the individual farmer. We do not want to drag this out unnecessarily, and we will make a timely decision and announce it to them as soon as possible.

2:20 p.m.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Is the minister aware that almost 1,000 residents of Thunder Bay district must travel either to Winnipeg or to Toronto every year on their doctors' orders for necessary medical treatment not available in the Thunder Bay area? Does the minister realize this is a 52 per cent increase since 1977 in spite of the air ambulance service and in spite of improvements in some specialist services?

Does he realize these people must pay their own transportation costs? Does he not think it is about time this medically necessary travel

ordered by their physicians was covered by the Ontario health insurance plan?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that not only in northern Ontario but also in many parts of this province people do have to travel varying distances for specialized medical care. Obviously those who live in the Thunder Bay area would have greater distances to travel than some others, and I am cognizant of that.

The honourable member is also aware, I trust, that if the individual is transferred from a hospital in that community—

Mr. Foulds: This does not include hospital transfers.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —his transfer by the air ambulance service is covered at the expense of the health care system.

The member should also be aware that determining what is a distance beyond which any public assistance ought to be available is sometimes rather difficult. If he is suggesting there ought to be a comprehensive travel subsidy system across the whole province for persons who have to travel over a certain distance for medical care, then he might wish to suggest what the cutoff point might be.

There are also situations where persons living in closer proximity to a medical centre may have to travel back and forth very frequently, perhaps every day. It is not just a simple matter of looking at distance.

However, if one looks as objectively as possible at the financial stresses that exist within the health care system these days, there might be greater priorities to address with the resources that are available before we get into a transportation subsidy program.

Mr. Foulds: Nobody said it was simple. But does the minister think it is fair that people who pay the same OHIP premiums as people in Metro Toronto, who pay the same taxes and who pay a higher sales tax because the base price is higher, should also have to pay, when someone is sick in their family, an average of almost \$1,400 annually for transportation to a specialist medical facility? Does the minister know that some families have had to pay as much as \$18,000 over a three-year period for a child who had to have specialist treatment for cancer?

Does the minister not think it is now time that those people who pay medical premiums in northern Ontario had the same access to services as people who pay medical premiums in Metro Toronto? To paraphrase my colleague the mem-

ber for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), does the minister think everybody in Thunder Bay who gets sick, or who has somebody in his family who is sick, is rich?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Well, I would not conclude that that was the case; I would not think the member would expect me to conclude that that was the case.

The question of the severity of individual cases can be appealed and in fact has been brought before the board on a number of occasions with success. If the member knows of situations such as he describes where there is financial hardship because of the circumstances—

Mr. Foulds: It is not financial hardship that should be the criterion; it is equality.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Where there is financial hardship, then the member might suggest to the individual that he should bring the matter before the board. I would suggest on the basis of the board's past performance that he might get a very favourable hearing.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the minister has pointed out what he perceives to be difficulties in implementing a transportation subsidy program. He will know that he has had at least two years to study this situation since we tabled a report that called for the subsidy program to be implemented.

The minister talks about the geographic difficulties of implementing such a program. I wonder whether it is any more difficult than implementing the licence plate program, in which the government decided that, beyond a certain boundary in the northeastern and northwestern areas of this province, the transportation costs were so high as to militate against having a very high licence plate fee.

I wonder whether the minister would consider using the same geographic criterion as has already been established for licence plates across this province. Or does he think the health of our citizens is less important than the issue of licence plate subsidies?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is totally inappropriate to consider the licence plate solution for something as important as this.

FISH HATCHERY

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, my question could be put to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes), the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) or the Minister of the Environment. I think I will go with my third choice.

The minister is aware of the plans for Limnos Ltd. to establish a trout hatchery in the hot waste water at the Pickering nuclear generating station. I wonder whether the minister has looked into the situation as it relates to rearing trout in the waste water from the nuclear station and whether he has satisfied himself that the fish will not contain any contaminants and could be very properly put on the market without glowing.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question and the sincerity with which it was asked, and I will redirect.

Mr. Speaker: To whom?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: To whomever you prefer.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Kerrio: The minister may answer the question and the supplementary, then, at the same time.

Knowing full well that Ontario Hydro discharges some 17 million curies of tritium a year into that water, my supplementary question is whether that water is being used as a heat source with a heat exchanger or whether the fish are being raised in the discharge of the cooling water from the nuclear plant. I wonder whether it would not be to his advantage to look into this matter.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I would be more than pleased on behalf of the member for Niagara Falls to look into the question that has been raised. We will get back to the House with the full details of that program.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. I assume he will be aware of the pretty serious string of allegations made by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. during the last two or three weeks against the past operation of the Niagara Regional Police.

Would the minister not agree with me that the many instances of inappropriate and nonaccountable use of public funds are serious—such things as credit cards being used without any reporting, a \$17,000 slush fund and expense allowances for commissioners, which included a flat sum and then all their expenses in addition to that with no accountability?

Does he not think the absence of any detailed audit for the 14 years of the police force's operation is totally inexcusable? Would he as the minister responsible for policing now order an audit for those years?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that a CBC reporter has made numerous allega-

tions over that network concerning the Niagara region. Indeed, the Ministry of the Solicitor General is reviewing those allegations at this time, so I will be able to make a comment on them further when the ministry people have reviewed the allegations.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Swart: I might further inform the minister, if he is not aware, that the regional council, which has to raise close to \$25 million for the operation of that police force, never received a copy of the full budget of the police commission, at least according to the minister in a letter I received from him. When I asked earlier this year for a copy of the full budget, he wrote back to me saying he had taken it before the police commission and it was denied.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: He said, "The summary which was sent to you previously was in fact the budget that was presented to regional council and approved by them."

Would the minister not think that this in itself should cause him to look into the funding and the operation of that police force for the last 14 years?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I do not believe that one occasion would cause me to go as far back as 14 years, but as I told the honourable member, we have just received the allegations. There has been a series done by a reporter for the CBC.

When the matter is reviewed, I can better answer those questions because there had been some comments made over a period of time regarding the Niagara region. Some of those allegations, and there appear to be repeated ones, are being investigated with other matters and the two do not overlap or coincide. I know there are a number of allegations being made. We are reviewing them, and we will have some answer or explanation as to the factual—

Mr. Swart: The minister has been reviewing it for nine months now.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: The member makes a comment about nine months.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjection, please.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: It is a very long investigation. These are serious allegations, and we do not take the allegations lightly. Indeed, they will be reviewed, but not at his speed and not at the speed that perhaps the media would like them done. They will be done for the protection of all the individuals involved. It is a matter of law and not just a matter of feeding and satisfying

people who make allegations and my replying to those allegations.

I take the job of police and responsibility for police very seriously, and I will not reply to allegations just as they are made in this House. This is not a police state. I answer and am responsible for the police in this jurisdiction. We do not have a police state where everything is at the fingertips of the police. The allegations will be reviewed in time.

LAKE ROSSEAU VILLAGE INN

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) raised a question regarding a small business development corporation which acquired a mortgage on a property known as Lake Rosseau Village Inn. The SBDC in question is 559700 Ontario Ltd., which was registered as a small business development corporation on September 12, 1983.

Prior to the registration of that corporation under the Small Business Development Corporations Act, staff of the ministry reviewed the affairs of the corporation with Mr. J. Spence Stewart, who, as indicated in public documents filed with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, was the sole officer and director of the corporation at that time. At the time of registration, 559700 Ontario Ltd. indicated an interest in two small businesses, neither of which was related to the Lake Rosseau project.

As indicated in the Maclean's article, the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union Ltd. did not become a shareholder of that company until October 27, 1983. Lorraine Scullion, Patricia McGonegal and two other individuals became directors of the SBDC. Such an action to place representatives of the credit union on the board of the SBDC would not be unexpected given that the credit union was a significant shareholder.

As the honourable member is aware, a SBDC must deposit an amount equivalent to any incentives paid by the ministry in a trust account and such moneys are held in trust for the Ministry of Revenue. This money is released from the trust account only when the SBDC makes an equity investment in a qualified small business. To obtain such a release, information and documentation related to the investment must be submitted in the form of an affidavit from both the SBDC and the small business in which it is to invest.

The problem regarding the arm's-length investment raised by the member would have been revealed on the submission of those affidavits. If

no application for the release of trust funds had been made, the ministry would have required submission of evidence that eligible investments equal to at least 40 per cent of the capital of the small business development corporation have been made by September 12, 1984, the first anniversary of the registration of the SBDC, and any problems would have been identified at that time. No application to have these funds released from the trust account has been submitted and, accordingly, no withdrawal from the trust account has been authorized. The ministry has confirmed that funds remain on deposit in the trust account.

The member mentioned that my colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) received a letter in June 1983 regarding the development of the Lake Rosseau resort hotel. Even if that letter were known to the Ministry of Revenue, the registration of 559700 Ontario Ltd. would have been unaffected, since, as I indicated earlier in my answer, an investment in the Lake Rosseau resort hotel was not contemplated at the time of registration.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister has given us quite a full answer in response to my leader's question yesterday. But does he mean to inform the House that, no matter what the view of the Minister of Industry and Trade would be—and he is the member for the Muskoka area—the SBDC would have been permitted to go forward and make an investment in that development with funds approved and partly subsidized by the Ministry of Revenue?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but that is not what I intended to convey. My statement was that there was nothing in the information that was in the letter or in the response of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to this letter that would have affected the original registration.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think you should remind the minister that when he has a statement such as he has just made, there are provisions under standing order 27 so he can make it during ministers' statements and not during question period.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

BREAST FEEDING OF INFANTS

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I have question for the Minister of Health about an unfortunate incident that happened in Chatham on March 27 at the Downtown Centre Shopping Mall. A patron of the mall was evicted from the food court on the concourse for nursing her four-

month-old infant. Having become a grandfather just a few months ago, I take an interest in this.

The mother was confronted by a security guard, and the demand was made that the mother and child leave to take the child to a washroom to perform the function of nursing. The woman refused, so a policeman was called and she was escorted from the mall.

I spoke to the mall manager, and he told me it is not their policy to evict people for caring for their children in this manner. They did object to the specifics of the case, so I am not quarrelling with that.

I wonder whether the minister would respond to the principle of this as the minister who is responsible for the health of mothers and children. I believe restaurants and accommodations in restaurants also fall within his ministry. Will he make a statement on behalf of the government, saying he does not support the relegation of nursing mothers to a washroom to carry on this perfectly normal function?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which principle the honourable member is asking me to address myself to, but if it is the matter of breast feeding of infants, obviously that is generally accepted to be a—

Mr. Boudria: Generally?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, it is generally accepted—among those involved in paediatrics, for example, in the appropriate rearing of children—to be desirable; and to the extent that I have vicarious knowledge of the rearing of children, I would suggest that I am a subscriber to that point of view.

However, with respect to the appropriate place at which that might be done, I think the question is not so much a matter of government policy as it relates to questions of the appropriate sensitivities of various communities. I do not subscribe at all, though, to the view that a washroom facility is an appropriate place.

Mr. McGuigan: I am not asking for a question of legality because I realize a restaurant has jurisdiction over its facilities. What I am asking for is a clear statement from the ministry, representing all of this Legislature, that when such acts are carried out in a discreet manner so as not to be objectionable to anyone else in a restaurant, all of us here would support the mother in carrying out a natural function. I hope the minister will endorse that statement.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can certainly endorse that statement from a personal perspective, but I am

not sure I have the authority to speak for everyone in the House.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, does the minister realize that as Minister of Health he may not be the appropriate person to approach on this matter? Surely he would not say it is a matter of moral standards in a community that is at issue here, but rather the basic human right of a mother to be able to feed her child in a restaurant or in a mall. Why should security guards be able to go in and muscle away? Surely that is a human rights question, is it not?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I implied there was any moral issue involved with respect to the breast feeding of children. If the member feels it is an appropriate question for someone with direct responsible for human rights, I suggest that is where he ought to direct the question.

Mr. Speaker: We are going to revert to the leader's questions, and it will be the first question for the New Democratic Party.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Education who, I am glad to see, has finally appeared in the House armed with a great load of statistics.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, work.

Mr. Allen: Yes, I understand. Last week when we queried the minister with respect to dramatic drops in technical enrolments in the grade 9 new enrolments under Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines, the minister said that if the statistics were true it would be a matter for genuine concern. I wonder if she has equal concern for some further statistics I wish to place before her. They have been compiled by her ministry with respect to the placement record of the college system over the last two or three years.

If the minister has looked over the graduate placement record, she may know that for November 1983 the records show that, of all years and all courses, students reporting indicate that 77 per cent were working as against 91 per cent two years before, and 10 per cent were in unrelated jobs as against seven per cent two years earlier.

Unemployment among the graduates of colleges of applied arts and technology, in other words, is now at 23 per cent as against nine per cent in 1980. The latest figure takes on even more significance if it is set against the corresponding month's figures for youth unemployment in the 15- to 24-year-old age group, which is 14.7 per

cent as against 23 per cent for the CAAT graduates.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: Surely that is an entirely unacceptable situation. Is the minister familiar with those statistics? What is her response and what does she propose to do in response to them?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat familiar with those statistics. I am also familiar with the statistics that relate specifically to the ability of many of the employers to hire the graduates of the programs of the colleges of applied arts and technology as a result of the significant recession through which we have all recently suffered.

I ask the member to look carefully at the statistics for preceding years, which demonstrate clearly that the graduates of colleges of applied arts and technology have almost achieved parity with the graduates of universities in the area of employment.

It is obvious that the courses and programs provided at the colleges of applied arts and technology must remain relevant and must be in the direction which most employers require. That has been a very specific requirement which has been placed before the administrators and the boards of all of the colleges for the past three years. They have been working diligently to ensure that they maintain the relevance of the courses and programs provided. When we do have some further improvement in economic conditions, I am sure the success rate of graduates of colleges of applied arts and technology will achieve the levels which they have achieved in the past.

On the basis of one year's statistics as a result of a very severe recession, I do not believe the honourable member can suggest the colleges are failing to do the job they were designed to do.

Mr. Allen: The question is not addressed to the colleges, nor to the quality of their education nor to their capacity to deliver well-trained students. That might be a subject for another debate.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: The question surely is that in the face of this kind of failure of graduates of the system to secure even levels of employment that the same age group, 15 to 24 broadly speaking, secures is something the ministry and the government need to look at very seriously.

May I ask the minister in particular if she is familiar with the statistics for French graduates, which are significantly worse: 37 per cent as

against 22.5 per cent. Will she tell us what specifically she is doing with respect to the problems of French graduates, which are obviously not just simply those related to the economy as such?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is obvious that the member is using his information in very selective fashion. If he looks carefully at the record of employment, even for university graduates within the past 18 months, he will find there has been a significant decline in the rate of employment within a six-month period for a relatively large number of university graduates.

That does not mean there is not an appropriate program being provided, nor that the opportunities for employment will not improve in the future. It is, I believe, the result of the difficulty employers have in finding the opportunity to employ large numbers of our young people, even though they have been trained appropriately. That is in the process of being turned around at present. I would hope the member would provide some support for employers in that turnaround and encourage them to begin the process of hiring those graduates.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of a supplementary nature relating to a very controversial aspect of the operation of our community colleges in line with some of what the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) was saying and drawing upon a conversation we had here last week.

It has to do with the fact that some community colleges—and I will be quite specific in mentioning Algonquin in Ottawa—for both general and quota programs continue to make no bones of the fact that they use a random selection, a lottery, for the admission of people. How in 1984 can any of us, least of all the minister, tolerate such an inequitable, ass-backwards scheme as that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I regret the unparliamentary language used by my colleague.

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I would be the first to agree it was unparliamentary. I will withdraw those remarks and substitute others therefor.

As recently as yesterday I had a panel of guidance people in Pembroke tell me exactly that. For both general and quota programs, Algonquin College make no bones of the fact that, regardless of whether one has 90 per cent or 62 per cent, one is subjected to a lottery. Is that not ridiculous and absolutely preposterous in 1984?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In those areas in which there is not a limited enrolment problem, it is indeed iniquitous. It is not the policy of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The ministry has proposed, as a result of much discussion and a great deal of consultation with the entire college system and with the educational system as a whole, the use of the lottery system only where all of the other mechanisms or factors related to the appropriateness of admission have been exhausted and there are more qualified applicants than there are places. It is only in those circumstances that colleges are permitted to use the lottery system. Among almost all of the colleges, that is the only place in which that system is used.

Mr. Bradley: It is not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is too.

Mr. Allen: I would like to express my admiration for the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) whose question period technique gets him two supplementaries in the place of one.

Mr. Speaker: He asked the same question twice.

Mr. Allen: Some of the disciplines that have very high statistics of unemployment are ones in which students have been led very strongly to believe in recent years their prospects would be just the reverse.

For example, in business administration, computer programming and data processing, the unemployment rates are 22 per cent, 30 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. For medical laboratory technicians, the unemployment rate is 39 per cent and for radiography it is 80 per cent. In computer sciences technology, computer systems design and electrical engineering technology, the unemployment rates are 16 per cent, 21 per cent, and 27 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Allen: Will the minister make representation personally to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) to ensure adequate, well-funded programs are available that will take up the slack in employment in these skills? Should not the minister be enlarging the opportunity in the colleges rather than restricting access?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are not restricting access. We have been attempting diligently to accommodate the increased demand for college enrolment and have done that relatively successfully over the last several years. Of course, there are variations in the rate of employment of graduates of various programs in various years.

If the member wants to use statistics in that way, I suppose he can prove almost whatever he wants to prove.

I would remind him that one of the major responsibilities of the program advisory committees and of the boards of governors of all the colleges is to review every program annually. This is to ensure the program offering is relevant and provides the necessary information and knowledge for the students in order to achieve employment appropriately. It also ensures that what is required by the employers is being met within the program. Employability of graduates is a significant part of that.

The colleges were requested four years ago to do this on an annual basis and almost all of them are doing it diligently. I doubt we can ask them to do more at the present time. The member really does not need to tell me what my job is in regard to asking for more money for the educational system. I do it with great regularity, great enthusiasm and reasonable success.

TREATMENT FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Can he inform the House whether or not his ministry is considering covering under the Ontario health insurance plan the hyperbaric oxygen treatment for persons suffering from multiple sclerosis?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I suppose the short answer at the moment is no. The treatment to which the honourable member refers is not yet recognized by the medical profession as a treatment. It is still in its experimental stages.

Provision has been made, in at least one instance of the experimentation going on, to cover the cost of the research through a grant from PSI. This would include the cost that would normally be passed along to the patient. But that is not generally the case. It is not the practice for OHIP to cover the cost of experimental treatments.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister should consider the tragedy that multiple sclerosis represents. The most recent case referred to my office involved a husband who was desperate to assist his wife for the sake of the family. Their doctor told them that were he in the wife's situation he would have already signed up for the treatment. These are treatments which, as the minister knows, cost \$120 apiece. A series of 20 costs \$2,400. Given these facts, will the minister not consider the possibility of coverage, particularly if results are positive?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Whether or not the treatment is effective is a matter of professional judgement on the part of the medical profession. I would suggest that if the individual's physician is of that opinion, the appropriate place to communicate that would be to the appropriate medical body, which could indicate its approval of it as a recognized treatment procedure. The treatment would then be reflected under the OHIP schedule of payment.

I have very little by way of alternative in the absence of that, because there may well be a number of experimental procedures that are being examined at any given time. Until such time as their efficacy is demonstrated, even those of us who see the most tragic of situations in terms of human health would be hard pressed to suggest that a procedure ought to be endorsed before we can be sure it is an appropriate procedure.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can the minister tell us exactly what we should recommend to such families? I have had two of them in my office in the past week. Is there some way the minister can speed up the process? Would he consider funding a pilot project to look into the benefits of the hyperbaric treatment? Some of the doctors are telling these people that at least one in three is assisted by this treatment.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There is a research project that is presently being funded not by the ministry, but through PSI.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When is the report due?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Pardon?

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was tempted.

In the case of the honourable member's constituents or of those who made the inquiries of him, I would suggest he might wish to find out more about the specifics and perhaps refer them or have their physician refer them to that project.

TORONTO ISLAND AIRPORT

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Nixon: You were just down talking to him.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Piché: The minister is well aware of the recent announcement that the federal government will spend more than \$4 million on improvements at Toronto Island Airport. Since the Island Airport is a downtown airport, the minister is also aware of the importance of the

role it will play in handling traffic not only from the south but from northern Ontario. The minister is also aware that further improvements such as a bridge or tunnel are contemplated at a further cost of approximately \$9 million.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Piché: Keeping in mind the minister is also aware that this airport should be available to all the people of Ontario, will he take steps to ensure that both phases of the project are expedited and brought to a successful conclusion?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want first to thank the honourable member for giving me some advance notice of this question. It is properly directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), and I certainly will bring it to his attention.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs works very closely with that ministry in the development of an overall transportation policy that will assist people living in northern Ontario. Of course, we are quite anxious to see improvements in the Toronto area that will expedite and facilitate the movement of traffic from northern Ontario.

Mr. Piché: The minister is also aware that the Dash-8 aircraft will be in service in the north this fall and that Toronto Island Airport could play a key role for this aircraft for service into and out of northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would just point out to the honourable member that if the minister is aware, he does not have to be reminded. Would the member please put his question.

3 p.m.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, that is rather unfair.

Would the minister also ensure that this aircraft will have a long future by talking to some of his colleagues in Ottawa, such as MP Michael Wilson, who is making some very negative remarks about de Havilland? A word or two to the next Prime Minister of this country, Brian Mulroney, will also help, because he is not helping things any.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as we in northern Ontario are all aware, we hope to have two Dash-8 aircraft in service, one this fall and another about a year from now. At present we are looking at a number of alternative routes and schedules that apply not only in northern Ontario but I am hopeful that for the first time this new, exciting aircraft will venture out of northern Ontario, possibly into Manitoba and possibly into the Toronto area.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated in his first response that this should more properly be directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. He also followed by saying he would do that and come back with information.

Would either he or his colleague make a complete report to us on any improvements that are being made not only for aircraft but also in the roads, which are in pretty bad shape, and in rail service; a complete transportation report on the north?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member had been reading my statements and the speeches I have been making in northern Ontario recently, he would have noticed that \$111 million is being spent in northern Ontario in this fiscal year for improvement of the highway system alone and for improvements in the transportation system.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Northern Affairs is talking to Michael Wilson in Ottawa, will he remind him that his ministry has guaranteed the purchase of two of those aircraft, and if de Havilland does go down the drain he will not only lose his investment but will also be unable to ensure a level of services for feeder lines in northern Ontario, which might be subverted by the actions of his colleagues in Ottawa?

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the government benches had the last question, if we are going to go around the chamber the way we usually do, I would think this side should have the next question. We had only the supplementary here and we did not have the next question.

Mr. Speaker: In order to be consistent, as we have done in the past—I would ask you first of all to resume your seat.

Following the rotation that we have, we had a new question and a supplementary on this side of the House; we had a supplementary on this side of the House, which I called as a final supplementary. However, because we have two parties on this side of the House, I have always recognized the right of both parties to have a supplementary.

Now, minister, do you remember the question?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the honourable member's question, I should preface my reply by pointing out that I have a certain bias towards de Havilland, being a former bush pilot myself and having great pride in the

product de Havilland has produced over the last 50-odd years. I am very confident, in view of the Prime Minister of Canada's statement in the House of Commons that he would support the production of the Dash-8 by de Havilland. I am confident that will happen.

I also want to point out to members of the House that this aircraft has already flown and the results of those tests are very encouraging. In fact, they exceed expectations.

LOCATION OF INCINERATOR

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment and has to do with the study, in which his ministry is involved, of the location of a garbage incinerator in downtown Ottawa.

The minister will recall he and I exchanged correspondence on this issue, and I guess it was in one of the first letters he sent to me that he wrote at the bottom: "Let's keep in touch. If I can be of further help, let me know."

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Roy: I am asking for further help now. The minister will recall that one of the reasons for locating this incinerator either in the Coventry Road area of Ottawa or in the Lebreton Flats was that the government wanted to sell the steam generated from this incinerator to the federal government for heating federal government buildings.

Will the minister now revise his plans in view of the fact the federal government has now decided not to purchase heat or steam from this incinerator? Given these circumstances, what would be the motivation for locating such an incinerator in the midst of an urban centre? What would be the motivation for locating it there if the government has no clients? Why would it not be put somewhere else?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the honourable member is aware, the lead government with respect to the location of incinerators or energy-from-waste programs—in some instances they are very similar—is the local level of government. In other words, the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton is the level of government that will make the decision with respect to the location, the economics and capital cost of that facility. All these will be determined by the local government.

We come in, as I indicated to the member at the bottom of the letter I sent to him, to attempt to be as helpful as we possibly can. One of the things he perhaps does not realize about this

government is that we are always attempting to be helpful to people.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr. Roy: I had a second left when I got up.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I was watching very closely. Would the member please resume his seat.

Mr. Roy: The ball was in the air.

Mr. Speaker: The ball was dead when you stood up.

Mr. Kerrio: Baseball is starting today. The tie goes to the runner.

TELEVISION IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not know whether you noticed, but the television press left when the best part of question period came forward. The member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) had very important questions that probably will not be seen by television viewers. I am not sure whether the attention span of the electronic press does not extend for a full 60 minutes, but if it does not, I cannot understand why they all leave in a body when one of the kingfish up there gives the signal that it is all over.

If they are going to continue to do that, as is their right, perhaps we could ask them at least to oil their tripods, not to drop their lenses and to turn out the lights when they leave.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, this is your chamber because you are in charge of it. Do you not think it is time we introduce television coverage of the proceedings of this Legislature so that the citizens of Ontario could see what was going on? This is your chamber.

I do not care what the Premier (Mr. Davis) thinks. What does the Speaker think about this nonsense that goes on daily? After the leaders leave, the cameras go down and everybody leaves the place willy-nilly.

Mr. Speaker: Contrary to what you think, it is not my chamber; it is all the members' chamber. I am in the hands of the members when it comes to decisions of that nature. If it is your wish to reintroduce that, fine.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: This deals with this very important question. When I directed a question to the government House leader (Mr. Wells) on this, he was reluctant to have the electronic Hansard

introduced into the House, but because you are probably the most prestigious and impartial person in this House, would you not be prepared to prevail upon those two forces which have been the worst forces in preventing this kind of access for the public to the members of the Ontario Legislature in their legislative duties, namely the leader of the government and last year's president of the press gallery, to influence them to have second thoughts about the introduction of an electronic Hansard in this House?

Mr. Speaker: I would like to enlighten the member and tell him I do not have any more influence over one side of the House than the other.

The proper place to discuss this matter would be at the Board of Internal Economy. If anybody wishes to have this matter rediscussed—

Mr. Martel: We have invited those people for more than a year, Mr. Speaker, and they haven't come yet.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sudbury East can put it on the next agenda.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: You were supposed to invite TVOntario and other officials to meet with us. That was decided a number of months ago. My friend who is now occupying the Minister of Revenue's chair, the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), will recall they were supposed to be invited to attend a meeting so we could discuss the costs and implications. That has not been discharged nor has it been accomplished to this time. I would like to know when it is going to happen.

Mr. Speaker: This is a very unusual question period.

I would remind the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) that at the last meeting where this was discussed, many people made representations and presentations. It was my understanding at the end of that meeting there would not be any further discussions because obviously the matter was dead.

Mr. Martel: I would suggest that you in fact asked the government House leader, who indicated we would have representations from TVOntario and any other interested people with respect to the discussion of that particular matter. I am still waiting for those people to be invited.

Mr. Speaker: I will take a look at the minutes and see what they say. Thank you very much.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the best way to deal with the electronic media would be to keep it out for a

week and see what happens, but I will not say that.

PETITIONS

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 286 people which is similar to the one I introduced last week. It reads:

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil, et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, let me present this petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations, and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Middlesex, Oriole, Durham East, Durham West and St. David, I table the following petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations, and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean), I table the following petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We the undersigned electors of Wentworth appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right. Parents of these schools also face a form of financial jeopardy through a lack of access to the taxes they pay in support of education. We ask you to change the situation."

REPORT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Runciman from the select committee on the Ombudsman presented the committee's report and moved adoption of its recommendations.

On motion by Mr. Runciman, the debate was adjourned.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Andrewes moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Dean, first reading of Bill 36, An Act to amend the Ministry of Energy Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, this legislation will enable the Ministry of Energy to more effectively carry out its current responsibility.

The bill has four aspects.

First, it encourages the prudent use of energy, and the development of alternative sources of energy will be made more explicit in the ministry's mandate. The reference to alternative sources of energy will explicitly include those sources which are renewable, as well as energy recovered from waste.

Second, the ministry will have greater flexibility in the choice of means for carrying out its mandate and will be better able to take advantage of the wide range of participation and financing

mechanisms which are in current use in the private sector.

Third, those who receive financial assistance from the ministry will be obliged to account for their use of that assistance.

Fourth, the requirement for order-in-council approval of any delegation of powers by the minister to the deputy minister or senior officials will be deleted, bringing the act in this respect in line with most others.

ONTARIO PENSIONERS PROPERTY TAX
ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Walker, first reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill introduces two improvements to the act.

The first change applies the same requirements of time limits to requests for sales tax grant eligibility as currently applied to applications for property tax grants.

The second amendment gives me the authority to waive collection of any amounts overpaid or paid to seniors in error in special circumstances where it would be unreasonable to insist on full repayment.

These two changes will make the act more equitable, while further streamlining its administration.

3:20 p.m.

HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. Laughren, first reading of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, this bill would prevent physicians and practitioners from billing their patients for amounts exceeding the amount payable by the Ontario health insurance plan. In other words, it would end extra billing.

LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Samis moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, first reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Liquor Control Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, this bill is an old chestnut that was first introduced in 1974 and was reintroduced five times subsequent to that. The purpose of the bill is to enable independent grocery store owners to sell beer and Ontario wines.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WINE CONTENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, second reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Wine Content Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Some hon. members: Carried.

Mr. Speaker: Carried.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, am I permitted to speak on this bill before we put the vote?

Mr. Speaker: I think we already did. However, if the—

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, it is normal to have a second reading debate on second reading.

Mr. Speaker: There normally is, but I asked for it. Does the member for Oriole have any opening remarks?

Mr. Martel: Do you have an opening statement? How could it possibly carry?

Mr. Riddell: You people are so disorganized. It is high time you were shoved out.

Mr. Speaker: Do not get excited.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce for second reading today the Wine Content Amendment Act, 1984. This bill will extend the application of the act from its current expiry date of August 31, 1984, to August 31, 1986.

As I am sure the members will recall, the Wine Content Act was enacted to permit Ontario wineries to blend imported grape juice with their own juice for a limited period of time to allow them the opportunity to plant and bring into production greater quantities of high-quality hybrid grapes. This extension of the act's expiry date was requested by the industry.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I only want to speak briefly on this bill. As we know, it is not a complex piece of legislation. Nevertheless, it is an important one for the Ontario wine industry.

This act has been in effect for a number of years. I believe it originated about 1977, and since that time we have had a vast improvement in the quality of our wines in Ontario so they compare favourably with wines from several, if not all, other countries of the world.

I should state at this time that unfortunately the wine industry is suffering quite a bit, especially this year and last year but more so in the current year, because it seems to have decreasing sales. This is most unfortunate, given the tremendous progress in the quality of their product which I

referred to previously. It is unusual when one looks at the circumstances. On the one hand, we have a product which everybody acknowledges is getting better and on the other hand we have a decreasing share of the market by that same excellent product. That is very unfortunate.

I will not spend any great time discussing remedies to all this or the causes of it, but we know that European currencies having decreased in proportion to ours certainly has lowered the price of wines coming from Europe to such a point that one can buy imported wines for approximately the same price, and sometimes even less, than some of our Ontario varieties.

That is coupled with the fact that we still have an unfortunate situation in this province which we could refer to as Niagaraphobia, the morbid fear of drinking Ontario wine. There is no valid reason for this. Like most phobias, it happens without any logical reason, but nevertheless it is still there.

It is my hope that the government will now undertake to assist the Ontario wine industry not only by the passage of this bill but also by other measures to enhance the sale of Ontario wines in comparison with products coming from outside the province.

Only a few moments ago, I introduced a petition in this House requesting that Ontario wine be sold in grocery stores in this province. That is not the subject of this bill, but I think we have to address ourselves to a whole variety of methods to improve the sales of Ontario wine.

I am glad to see the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) is here, because he would be very interested in improving the sales of Ontario wines.

We know Ontario wines are given special privileges by means of this act, the Wine Content Act. We know Ontario wines are also afforded special privileges under the Liquor Control Act which, for instance, provides that only Ontario wineries can operate these wine boutiques across the province. This is a special program that is available only to Ontario wineries in the hope it will assist them in marketing their product and get the consumers of this province to consume more Ontario wine versus other varieties.

I cannot let the occasion go by without asking the member for Brock and all his colleagues to support the private member's bill I will be bringing in this Legislature only two weeks from this Thursday, at which time we will have the opportunity to put on record whether we are serious about assisting the Ontario wine industry. I am sure all members of the government,

especially the member for Brock, his colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes), perhaps the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and all the others representing constituencies that have a grape-growing agricultural industry or wineries in their area as well as all others in this Legislature, will seize that opportunity to put on the record that they are in favour of expanding this very worthwhile industry in the province.

3:30 p.m.

It has been only two or three years since Ontario wineries succeeded in making 50 per cent of the wine consumed in this province. Now we see that percentage has slid right back down to the low 40s. That is very unfortunate for the agricultural industry, the wine industry, the grape growers and so forth.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And for our land use policy.

Mr. Boudria: That is quite true. It is interesting that the minister brought up the land use policy, because this same government is permitting almost everything to be paved over, especially our very fertile lands on the Niagara Peninsula, which could be growing not only the products we see now but all kinds of other agricultural products as well. We see this happening to some of the best agricultural land in the whole world.

The interjection of the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) is particularly apropos. I hope his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) takes note of it and stops this business of paving over our prime agricultural land in Ontario. I hope he puts the land to a very worthwhile use such as increasing our grape growing in this province as well as to all kinds of other worthwhile agricultural uses.

I am particularly glad to hear the Deputy Premier mention how important it is to preserve our agricultural land, especially in the riding of Brock and in other areas where they grow such excellent products as the grapes that are used to make Ontario wines.

In conclusion, I want to say it is my hope that in the not too distant future we will not have to incorporate the use of grapes from elsewhere, or grape juice, or foreign wines with our own wine. It is my hope that we will be able to be self-sufficient in all varieties of products that are necessary to make the very fine wines we now make in Ontario.

Having said that, we recognize there is a shortage of certain varieties of grapes at the moment and therefore we do need this type of legislation. On behalf of our party, we are

pleased to support Bill 4, the Wine Content Amendment Act.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) has said, this is a rather simple bill we have before us. It is also a noncontroversial bill. I think that will prove to be the case.

The honourable member also indicated it was an important bill. As one of those who come from the Niagara Peninsula, having a substantial grape growing industry in my own riding, I am very conscious of how important it is.

The purpose of the bill is to have the kinds of wine that will promote their use both within and outside this province. In this respect, the Wine Content Act has been successful in developing wines which, as has already been said, are equal to those of any place.

I want to make it clear at the very outset of my comments that I am not strongly supporting this bill for the improvement of the wine so there will be a sale for it. I am not really promoting additional alcohol consumption.

All of us must realize that in our society the situation has become pretty serious with regard to the degree of consumption of alcohol and the effect it is having on our society. When one looks at the number of road accidents, one finds 50 per cent of the drivers who are killed were under the influence of alcohol. It matters not whether one looks at broken homes or at the incidence of violence, much of the cause is the excessive consumption of alcohol.

I would like to point out that the consumption of alcohol is increasing quite dramatically. I have tables here from the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research Foundation showing that per capita alcohol consumption in this province has increased from 2.81 gallons a year in 1928 to 4.86 gallons in 1945, 8.77 gallons in 1965 and now 11.5 gallons. Also, an example of some of the harm it has caused, the incidence of cirrhosis of the liver has increased from 4.4 during those same years to something like 15 at the present time. Therefore, I am not standing in my place to say there should be more consumption of alcohol generally in this province, because I believe it is damaging to our society.

Having said that, this bill does not do that. This bill does two things. It means we will have a product that is equal to products from other countries. Therefore, we will encourage consumption of our own wines rather than those that are imported.

Mr. Breithaupt: If you have to drink it, it may as well be the good stuff.

Mr. Swart: That is right.

It is also true to say, and I believe this is statistically shown to be true in this province and in this nation, that our alcoholism is by and large not due to the consumption of wines. For a variety of reasons that form of alcohol, because it is consumed in the home and because it is consumed at the table, causes the least degree of social problems and the least excess in the consumption of alcohol.

There is no question that failure to pass this bill would worsen the situation we have in Ontario at the present time. It has made our wines very successful. The member for Brock may be referring to some of these as well, I do not know.

Ontario wines have won competitions recently throughout the world. I am told there was one in Yugoslavia in a place called Ljubljana. They have a wine fair there, and it is a very popular international wine fair. In 1982, the Hallmark Cream sherry from Chateau-Gai won the gold medal, a silver medal and a bronze medal. In May 1983, Jordan's gold Patina sherry won an award, and the Barnes Heritage Estate won two silver medals.

In the international wine and spirits competition in Bristol, England, in 1982, Bright's won a gold medal for its Gewurztraminer. Two silver medals were won by the Pinot Champagne.

In the 1982 winery unlimited competition in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, basically for wines in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains, Bright's won a silver and three bronze medals; Inniskillin, one silver and one bronze; Jordan and Ste-Michelle Cellars Ltd., one silver; and London Winery, two bronze for a white table wine and a silver for vermouth.

There is no question, Ontario wines are second to none any place in the world and can hold their own in sales with fair competition.

3:40 p.m.

This bill is essential at this time because there has perhaps never been a more serious time for our wine industry or in fact for the whole grape-growing industry. For instance, the sale of grapes for processing into grape juice—and this has been growing over the years quite substantially—had built up to 17,000 gallons in 1982. That dropped to 12,000 gallons in 1983, a drastic cut in the number of the grapes here that went into producing that grape juice. That is just 70 per cent in one year. It dropped down to 70 per cent of what it had been the previous year; largely because of imports and also, I am told, because of the cheap citrus fruit juice.

The sale of Canadian wine—and this is an extremely serious situation—this January and February was 20 per cent below that of last January and February; and in February the sale was lower than in January. I have not seen the figures for March—I do not know whether they are out yet or not—but they were anticipating they would be down again, perhaps 30 per cent below what they were last year for the sale of Canadian wines.

This is largely because of the tremendous invasion of the Canadian market by French wines, which has perhaps been due to three causes. The first was the abolition of the handling charge that had been put in place by this government from October 1981 to June 1983. It was 65 cents a bottle on imported wine, which caused it to be somewhat higher in price and assisted our own industry substantially. But I recognize, and I guess the government probably recognized when it was put in, that it was contrary to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and it eventually was abolished. I have to admit there was no alternative to that.

But the main reason for the increase in the importation of the French wines has been the devaluation of the French currency. We think our currency has dropped in relation to that of the United States, and so it has.

Mr. Boudria: It is the second-strongest currency in the world.

Mr. Swart: Yes; but having said that, European currencies have dropped quite dramatically compared to our currency.

To put the whole thing in perspective, we have to say their currencies went up quite dramatically compared to our currency five, six or seven years ago, but now they have dropped. This has meant that French wines have come down substantially in price and are undercutting and almost unfairly competing with Niagara wines.

There has also been a substantial overproduction of wines in Europe. Partly because of the world economic depression consumption has been falling, but the farmers in those countries have also endeavoured to recoup some of their losses by growing more. Therefore, we have this surplus of wine, and there is reason to believe there is some dumping of it in Canada.

I am told we are now importing something like nine million gallons of wine from France. That is a 100 per cent increase in the amount of imports of the major brands in just one year, and it cannot help but have a very serious effect. We are still importing something like five million gallons from Italy, plus substantial amounts from

Hungary and the United States. We produce only about 10 million gallons of wine here. When we import nine million from France, that gives an indication of the way it cuts into our locally produced wines.

In fact I am told—and this seems almost unbelievable—that imports of grapes and grape products into this nation rank about third in agricultural products; only two other farm products are ahead of grape products and their byproducts. So much for the pious statements of the Minister of Agriculture and Food about self-sufficiency. There is no question but that the current situation is approaching a crisis.

There was an article in the *Hamilton Spectator* on this subject dated March 30, 1984, which some of those members who are interested in this industry may have read. It is by Paul Legall, whom some members will know. He was in St. Catharines for a time. He manned the St. Catharines bureau and worked for the mayor.

He wrote: "The Niagara wine industry is fighting for its life against the threat of French imports being 'dumped' in Ontario at 'ridiculously low prices,' according to an industry spokesman. And, if something is not done soon to curb the French invasion, Donald Campbell predicts the Ontario grape-growing industry could disappear altogether.

"As vice-president and general manager of Chateau-Gai Wines Ltd. of Niagara Falls, Mr. Campbell said he will join other industry officials in attempting to persuade both levels of government to stop the French 'predatory pricing policy.'

"Earlier this week a spokesman for the Ontario Grape Growers Marketing Board announced sales of domestic wines slipped about 20 per cent in the first quarter this year and native products now represent only about 40 per cent of all the wine sold in the province.

"The slumping sales have already resulted in layoffs and shutdowns at several Niagara wineries."

If there is anything we do not need in the Niagara Peninsula, it is more layoffs and shutdowns. The Niagara region has the unenviable record over the last year and a half of either leading or being second or third in the whole nation in the level of unemployment.

Mr. Legall goes on to say: "At Chateau-Gai, where more than 50 workers have been laid off indefinitely, the plant is operating 'hand-to-mouth.'

"Jeff Ward, a Barnes Wines executive and chairman of the Wine Council of Ontario, also

sees gloomy times ahead because of the French invasion."

I will not read the remainder of that article. However, anywhere one goes in the grape-growing or grape-processing communities this year, one finds what appears to be a crisis. This applies to the grape growers and the wineries as well.

I know the answers are not simple or easy. There was a 65-cent handling charge which helped while it was in place, but it is gone now. In its place the government established a form of floor price which at least raised the price of the cheap wines that were coming into this nation. There was an agreement between the wine council and the government, but it really did not help a great deal. The cheap wines were coming in at a price a bit higher and this caused people to buy some of the better wines. The French wines have taken the place of those cheap wines and undercut our own production.

Because of GATT I know we cannot provide a differential in taxes between domestic and foreign imports. I also know successful prosecution of dumping is difficult. I recall a report not very long ago—it was last year, I believe—in which the federal government concluded Italian wines were being dumped in this nation. However, it also came to the conclusion it was not hurting our wine industry, so nothing took place.

I guess the onus is on a commodity group to initiate action on dumping, and that is costly. I am told potato farmers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have taken action against dumping from the United States and it has cost them more than \$250,000. Of course, by the time a final decision is given, the crisis—

Mr. McGuigan: The Americans are charging dumping.

Mr. Swart: Yes, the member is right. The Americans are charging dumping and they proved their case. However, it has cost them more than \$250,000, and by the time a decision is given, the crisis may well be past. I know it is not easy.

Mr. McGuigan: We did the opposite in British Columbia.

Mr. Swart: Yes.

3:50 p.m.

They say there are still areas where government can and must act to protect our consumers. I suggest the federal Liberals have not been nearly diligent enough in pursuing the *prima facie* evidence of dumping. One gets the clear

impression they are engaged in tradeoffs. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture and Food would not raise too much objection to the importation of wine in order to sell our Ontario potatoes or corn or wheat. This kind of tradeoff is hurting the grape producers in the Niagara Peninsula.

From my understanding and investigation, I see no reason the federal government could not place import quotas on wine imports as it does on auto imports. Of course, there are not as many people affected and thus it does not do it, but it could put quotas on wine imports and stop many of them. This tradeoff prevents the feds from doing it.

I suggest Ontario could find ways of helping if it really wanted to. There are measures of assistance or stabilization payments to the growers which would perhaps mean they could sell their grapes to the wineries more cheaply. The growers could keep the price down if stabilization payments were being made by the Ontario government. I suggest that is one way the government could look at to assist them. I presume there are methods of funnelling funds to the processors and the wineries so that the retail price of our Niagara wines can be kept below the imports and, thus, our sales would stay up.

I recognize this is not the most desirable way of doing it, but we have to make our wines competitive, and they are competitive in quality. Even to use these methods of assisting the wineries in one way or another, or assisting the growers through stabilization programs, are better than letting the grape-growing industry go down the tube. We cannot afford to do that.

My party and I fully support the lengthening of the duration of the Wine Content Act to keep up the quality of the wine. I am convinced that when the grape growers of Ontario, in particular in the Niagara Peninsula, find they can grow the grapes and keep up the quality, they will not be in here asking for an extension of this kind of legislation. I say that because they now feel and the whole industry feels that it is necessary to extend this legislation.

We are not undercutting the growers by permitting the wineries to use 15 per cent, as it is now, of imported grapes or wine to blend so that we have that better quality, though I realize there are some exceptions that can be made to this. Therefore, we support this bill. I just say this bill is not enough in itself to deal with the problems facing the growers and the wineries.

I am certain the Deputy Premier agrees and will speak on this because it has greater effect in his area, where there are more grape growers

than in my area. I hope he will talk about some of the alternatives his government, either alone or in conjunction with the federal government, will be putting in place so that the grape growers and all the workers and companies—the whole grape industry—will remain viable and we will not see a further worsening of the economic situation in the Niagara Peninsula.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill because I recognize that until we reach a time when we can fill that market ourselves, we require this imported juice.

I must confess I have more than a passing interest in it because some five years ago I planted seven acres of wine grapes on my farm at Cedar Springs.

Mr. Nixon: You must be getting rich by now.

Mr. McGuigan: I hate to disappoint the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), but it costs a lot of money to get into this business. It costs about \$5,000 to plant an acre of grapes.

Mr. Nixon: How many acres did you plant?

Mr. McGuigan: Seven.

Mr. Swart: You don't get the money back the same year as you do with soybeans.

Mr. McGuigan: I added that to my deficit.

I like to give members a bit of history whenever the Niagara Peninsula and the growing of grapes are mentioned. The industry began in the counties of Essex and Kent where at one time there were extensive vineyards, especially on Pelee Island., as the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) has said. I understand they are now returning and planting quite an acreage on that island.

In the little village of Cedar Springs where I live there is an old store. The building is not so old; it was rebuilt about 30 years ago on the foundation of a building that had burned. That foundation goes about two stories into the ground. Normally, a basement goes down only one storey. They tell me the reason for the depth of the basement is that about 100 years ago it was a wine cellar. In talking to the people in the Niagara Peninsula about the pressures on those lands, it is sad to say, the industry is moving our way.

Another interesting point is that when tobacco came along, about the time of the First World War, it pushed the grapes growers out. It pushed them into the Niagara Peninsula, and the industry never came back again because the wineries became established there. Vegetables, tobacco and other crops took up similar lands in Kent and

Essex. It is ironic today, when we see the tobacco industry retreating, that possibly the grape industry will recover its importance in our area of southwestern Ontario.

Some terms come to mind concerning the pressing and development of grapes, one of which is foxy. I cannot describe this to members because my taste acuity is not that great, but there is a certain taste in grapes that is undesirable. Whenever one tastes this, it will be a poor quality of wine. The people who know call this a foxy taste.

Each batch of grapes that one squeezes the juice from is called a press. When the grapes settle and the seeds, skins and so on go to the bottom of the fermentation vats, the term used is must. In the ageing of the wines—they are aged in wooden casks, or they were in previous times—a certain amount of the alcohol and water evaporated from the wooden casks and ended up—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I am having some trouble in seeing how the member's remarks pertain to Bill 4.

Mr. McGuigan: I was coming right to that. That is called head space. I would ask the minister from Niagara, who is very familiar with this, to be a bit foxy about some of his business activities. I am told a 65-cent handling charge is not against the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade because, for some technical reason, it does fall within the purview of GATT. I would ask him to be a bit foxy and bring that back.

4 p.m.

If this industry is going to survive, the minister must press his cabinet colleagues to bring about some of these measures. I ask them to use their head space to search for all the possible ways we can improve the lot of this industry; such ways as promoting Ontario wine at government receptions and on the transportation systems that fall within the purview of the Ontario government, the trains, buses and airlines that are part of the Ontario government. Now that we have quality wines that can compete with wines from anywhere in the world, the government should pass regulations to see that only Ontario wines are served in those areas where this government has jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to prolong the debate unnecessarily, but it should be obvious to members of the House that I welcome the opportunity to rise in support of this legislation and to commend those who have already spoken from all sides of the House for their support.

There is no need to repeat the points that have already been made by those who have spoken. I think particularly of the member for Prescott-Russell, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) and others who have joined in the very appropriate chorus in drawing attention to the tremendous progress that has been made in the development of Ontario wines with respect to their quality and their availability.

I think it is important that, as part of this debate on the principle of this particular bill, we pay tribute to the growers in Ontario, most of whom come from the Niagara area, for their attention to this matter and to the processors who have responded to the consumer demand for a good quality product.

It is important to know that those of us who share the Niagara region, and I speak to the fact that there are six provincial seats, enjoy a great spirit of unanimity with respect to the keen support we have for the grape-growing industry, knowing the tremendous number of people who are dependent upon it for their economic wellbeing. I want to say in this House that the member for Welland-Thorold, the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), the member for Lincoln and the member for Brock have always worked together for the benefit of those who have been involved in this area of activity.

There are a number of factors, of course, that bring us together. We think of the whole question of the appropriate use of the land resources of our area and we recognize that because of certain regulations in the processing of grapes and in the ultimate manufacture in the wine industry, the wineries of our area must use the local product; this in turn makes for the economic viability of those who are engaged in that branch of agriculture, and anything that would threaten this, of course, is of some concern.

Others have already spoken about the support of the government over the years with respect to the replacement of vines, as we recognize the importance of new varieties; indeed, the wine assistance program was enthusiastically supported by my colleagues in government who have responsibilities in the field of Consumer and Commercial Relations and in other ministries.

I want to say quite publicly in the course of the debate on the principle of this bill that the Premier, the present Treasurer and those who have preceded him have been tremendously supportive, as they have recognized the impor-

tance of encouraging and supporting this activity in the Niagara region and the economic benefits that flow to those who are engaged in this activity.

The member for Prescott-Russell and others have quite rightly pointed out the factors that are now quite evident in our area concerning the competition on the shelf with respect to these quality products. When one talks about the quality of our wines, along with others one will have watched the growth of the cottage wineries. This is something that has been encouraged by the policies of the government over the years.

Now we face certain challenges for the reasons that have already been enunciated. I can assure members, as I have assured the growers of the Niagara region, this government does not intend to stand idly by without taking appropriate measures that, consistent with our activities in the past, will be seen to continue our support of this industry.

Indeed, we have been faced with these problems over the years and we responded with the handling charge to which the member for Kent-Elgin made some reference. It was found in international quarters to be in violation of agreements entered into by our federal government. We have to become somewhat innovative and creative within the framework of international agreements and understandings to find some way to respond to the present challenge, but respond we must. We certainly have a very strong obligation to do so.

In my view, this is not to be seen as a politically partisan issue. We are talking about land use, industrial strategy and employment and export potentials. These are matters in which we all share a very keen and obvious interest.

Certainly the competition being felt at the moment is the result of a number of factors, not the least of which is the currency matter to which the member for Welland-Thorold made some reference. As the members know, it is part of the international understanding that whatever differentials are now in place with respect to markups cannot be widened. We have a situation in which the domestic product is marked up at a percentage and the imported product is marked up at a higher percentage.

Notwithstanding that, because of other factors, at the moment the imported product seems to be enjoying some preference by way of price on the shelf and that is seen as a very serious threat to the long-term welfare of the wine-growing area. It is something that is going to have to be addressed because it is addressed quite

forcefully in other political jurisdictions throughout the world.

Hundreds of people in the Niagara area are dependent upon this industry. That is not to overlook the gradual expansion in other parts of the province. I think we have some obligation, for reasons I have already mentioned, to respond to these concerns.

To a large extent, the ultimate solution will depend upon discussions under way at present to which representatives of the grape growers and the wineries are a party, because we have established task forces and are involved in discussions with respect to these matters.

The bill before us is one we have had the opportunity to discuss in this House from time to time. It really is an indication of the necessity to respond to certain consumer preference in the marketplace with respect to this product. I mention not only the general question with respect to quality but indeed the type of wine.

4:10 p.m.

In answering the call to change over, many of our growers have been involved in the planting of a lot of grapes for red wine. There seems to be a consumer preference in many places for white wine. As a result, in order to maintain ourselves in the marketplace and to respond to the consumer interest with respect to quality of wine generally and type of wine in particular, we have this legislation before us providing an opportunity for blending.

This is a wonderful example of the tremendous co-operation that exists between the agricultural producer and the processor in our area, recognizing in the long term the advantages of co-operating and working together to respond to the demands of the marketplace. I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to both the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board and the Wine Council of Ontario for this spirit of co-operation and working together, because the legislation comes forward with the enthusiastic support of both those groups.

However, in this House we can understand the concern that is felt for many of the grape growers of the province as they work in their vineyards with respect to all the expenditures that are now required to ensure a good quality crop this coming fall, looking ahead at the prospects for the marketing of those grapes; and of course one knows where the principal buyers of those grapes are and the implications involved. It is hoped in the weeks that lie ahead we will be able to find some solution to the immediate problems that face this industry.

I am one of the six who has the privilege of being a member from the Niagara area. I am sure we are joined by members from other parts of the province. Just last week when I was in Windsor I had the opportunity to speak to those who are involved in the industry there, for the reasons the member for Kent-Elgin has pointed out.

I pay a special word of thanks to all members of the House for their support of this bill, and I say to the member for Kent-Elgin it certainly has been a matter of government policy for some time that, in the extension of hospitality by the government of Ontario, we have the opportunity to share our pride in these quality wines.

I am just now back from a luncheon the government of the province established for the president of Portugal. We had the opportunity to taste some of the finest wines in the world, from the Niagara area. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and the leader of the third party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae) would confirm that, because they were both there, enjoying that vintage from a winery located on Creek Road in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the constituency of Brock, which is the closest I can really come to identifying the brand without running into some difficulty in the House this afternoon, although I would be glad to provide privately Liquor Control Board of Ontario numbers for all the brands of all the wines—

Mr. Nixon: Numbers? What kind of generosity is that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: LCBO numbers by way of identification.

Mr. Mackenzie: How about a bottle itself?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would want to stop short of that type of promotion. May I say on behalf of 993 grape growers and all their families, their relatives and friends how much I appreciate the support. I urge all members of the House to recognize the importance of this great activity.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat presumptuous of me to speak on this topic, particularly after the member for Brock has spoken more or less as the ministerial windup, wrapup and mopup. I understand the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams), in his capacity as parliamentary assistant, is the windup speaker.

I thought I would make a comment or two about this because this bill has been before the House on more than one occasion. As a matter of fact, I sent a request to the library for one of the earlier debates. I do not believe it was the first one. I was just looking at the material the library

provided. It is dated December 14, 1976. I notice on second reading of the same bill, the members of the New Democratic Party on that occasion all voted against the bill, but their views have changed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: What date is that?

Mr. Nixon: It is 1976. I felt it was worth mentioning.

Hon. Mr. Welch: How did you vote?

Mr. Nixon: We voted for it.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not want to leave on the record that the New Democratic Party voted against the original Wine Content Act because that was not the case.

The minister will remember the meetings which we had over that bill, and the fact that the then member for Wentworth was here at that time and he and I led this in the House and we voted unanimously in support of the Wine Content Act when it was originally introduced. I believe it was 1976. Perhaps the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is looking at the wrong bill.

The Acting Speaker: That is one of the most legitimate points of order I have ever heard.

Mr. Nixon: I think it is too. I could be mistaken, but I am looking at the Hansard material the library sent me, dated December 14, 1976, Wine Content Act, Bill 135:

"The House divided on Hon. Mr. Handleman's motion for second reading of Bill 135, which was approved on the following vote:

"Ayes" so and so, "Nixon," so and so.

"Nays: Angus, Bounsall, Breagh, Bryden, Burr, Cassidy, Davidson (Cambridge), Davison (Hamilton Centre), Deans, Duksza, Ferrier, Foulds, Germa, Gigantes, Godfrey, Grande, Laughren, Lawlor, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Makarchuk, McClellan, Philip, Renwick, Samis, Sandeman, Warner, Wildman, Ziemba—29."

I am very glad—

Mr. Breithaupt: A lot of them are not here any more.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my only explanation would be—

The Acting Speaker: Is this a point of order?

Mr. Renwick: —it was immediately before another referendum in High Park.

Mr. Nixon: I feel a good deal of credit should be directed towards the member for Brock and the spokesmen for the two opposition parties as well, but the matter continues to concern me to some extent because we are still going to enable the wine industry to import in order to compete with the industry in Quebec. Certainly there is

blending in the wine industry in California, in New York and in British Columbia, but there is always the contention, particularly from the government in this bill, that all we need is a bit more time so we can perfect the vines and the culture of the proper vines in Ontario.

We might as well accept the fact that a certain amount of blending in the wine industry is going to continue for a good long time, probably for as long as the minister and I are sipping, in a purely experimental way. I feel it is necessary for the industry to be supported in any way possible because as the honourable minister himself has explained to me—I hope I am not divulging anything that should not be made public because this is public knowledge—the prices of Ontario wines in our liquor and wine stores are perhaps higher than they should be if we want more people to use them in a healthy and proper way.

It is interesting that on Friday of last week we were talking about the tobacco industry and now we are talking about wine. I think tomorrow it will be lotteries, so we will be able to cover the gambit.

When it comes to quality, we do miss the former member for Lincoln, Ross Hall, who also was a very strong advocate of the utilization of our high quality Niagara wines. There were those among my former colleagues in this very party who used to, on rare occasions, indicate quietly that they thought the quality did not come up to the finest French standards. It embarrasses me to even say that, but I can recall our friend Ross Hall on one occasion decided to finally put this to rest. He brought the very best French wines and the very best wines from the Niagara Peninsula into our dining room and set up a wine tasting.

4:20 p.m.

The bottles were set up just like Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola so that one could not tell which was which. I can recall the occasion which involved, among others, my good friend and our former leader, Stuart Smith himself, who as everybody knows is a connoisseur of wine. When the results of this careful comparison were finally made public, Dr. Smith and many others who had sometimes been somewhat critical of these wines had placed the Niagara wines at the very top of the list.

Many members of the House were there on that occasion to verify the fact that it was done as a blind test, and I use that adjective advisedly. They can verify that people who had drunk the finest wines in the capitals of Europe were able, not for any kind of a third-rate competition but in

an actual taste test, to pick Ontario wines as the best available in this province.

I have often thought the wine companies could have made much more of that in their efforts to promote their own products. Certainly they have access to the very prettiest ladies, the very best photographers and the very funniest pseudo-ethnics who bounce around trying to sell this wine from time to time. But I do not think their advertising is as good as it might be.

The thing that really puts the kibosh on the wine industry here is the fact that through no fault of its own the prices are too high. Those of us, even in this House, who occasionally take a glass of wine for our stomach's sake often hesitate to do so. With all the taxes and various other requirements, even those of an international nature, we find our own home-produced product is more expensive than it should be in the minds of our fellow citizens, all nine million of them.

I would hope there might be some method in the future whereby this could be remedied. With the parliamentary assistant (Mr. Williams) being advised and assisted by the Deputy Premier himself, I know we can look forward to better days in this regard.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have the support of members from all sides of the House on this most important bill.

Mr. McClellan: This is the first time it ever happened.

Mr. Williams: That is quite true. It is a rare occasion.

I am delighted to hear strong statements in support of this legislation from the member for Welland-Thorold, the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for Kent-Elgin. Certainly the member for Brock, with his wide experience in this whole industry, made an extraordinary contribution to the debate this afternoon. His being here has contributed greatly to the level of debate. We are thankful to him for being here to support this legislation, along with my colleagues on the other side of the chamber.

I am not going to comment on the reminiscences of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, given that history speaks for itself. He is known to speak with a forked tongue on occasion, and today appears to be no exception.

I feel we must come back to what the main intent of this legislation is all about. I think the members have highlighted the concerns with regard to the legislation in giving very positive support to its enactment. However, I reiterate that, as stated right in the body of the existing legislation, the purpose of the act is to permit the

introduction of grapes grown outside Ontario. It is to permit imported wine to be used with wine manufactured in Ontario without reducing the use of Ontario grapes in the content.

This is an extremely important consideration. It is the most succinct way one can speak to concerns about preserving a very important industry within our province, wine processing and grape growing.

The member for Prescott-Russell expressed concern at the outset about the declining marketplace in the short term and about special privileges accorded Ontario wines; and so it should be that we do provide special support where we feel it necessary.

Of course, it would be the ultimate goal and objective to obtain self-sufficiency, which the member for Prescott-Russell suggested we should be striving for. We must be fully aware of the fact that the participants in the industry themselves are making giant strides forward in the direction of self-sufficiency, but I think we all understand and appreciate that this cannot occur overnight.

As the minister stated at the time he introduced this bill for first reading on March 22, considerable progress has been made in the development of high quality Ontario grapes, but the reality of the situation is that the industry still needs access to foreign wine for the purpose of blending. Of course, it is for this reason that the industry itself has come to us asking that the legislation be extended to provide more time to let their efforts be fulfilled in striving towards self-sufficiency.

It has been pointed out that the Wine Council of Ontario and the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board are the important actors in this situation, not only for the purpose of preserving an extremely important industry within one geographic area of the province but also for the purpose of preserving a very important segment of our provincial economy as a whole.

Those two bodies, the wine council and the grape growers' board, in asking the government for extension of the legislation have indicated the progress that has been made in the increased plantings of the preferred hybrid and vinifera varieties during the past 10 years. They do point out, though, that the industry is still faced with an imbalance in raw materials.

It is interesting to note that in 1982 the grapevine census indicated that 10 years earlier there were only approximately 80,000 vines that were growing grapes and now, as recently as 1982, we have 2,165,000 vines with the varieties in question being grown. This again indicates

from a quantitative point of view the progress that has been made by the grape growers, and this is indeed a compliment to them.

I should point out at this time that in speaking of the Wine Council of Ontario it would be proper and fitting that the participants of the wine council be identified, because it is certainly the body that represents the producers in Ontario. I must at the same time congratulate Mr. David Diston on his recent election as the new chairman of the wine council. He is known to many people in the wine industry, and it was just last week that his election to this prestigious office was made public.

The members from the grape-growing area of our province will be most aware of Mr. Diston's qualifications, but for the benefit of the other members of the Legislature who are perhaps less informed on these matters, it should be made known that Mr. Diston has a background that includes all aspects of the wine industry, from grape growing to wine making and the selling of packaged wine. He comes as a person well qualified to assume that important post. Again he is to be congratulated.

4:30 p.m.

When we talk about the wine council and the wine producers in Ontario which the council represents in large measure, I must point out, as I am sure most of us know but it bears restating, that there are 14 producers in Ontario, 11 of whom are members of the wine council. This shows that there is very strong participation in and support for the wine council and that it speaks in large measure for the wine producers.

Notwithstanding that my colleague the member for Brock was reluctant out of modesty to put on the record certain brand names in the House this afternoon, I would like to put on the record who the wine producers are in Ontario, because they do represent an extremely important industry.

My colleagues from the Niagara area will be well aware of Andrés Wines Ltd. of Winona and Barnes Wines Ltd. of St. Catharines.

The member for Welland-Thorold pointed out that a number of local wineries have won international awards in recent years. I am delighted he took the time to give credit to these local producers for producing wines of international excellence. Amongst the wineries he mentioned is Barnes Wines, which I referred to a moment ago, and T. G. Bright and Co. Ltd. of Niagara Falls, which have won awards, as pointed out by the member, as well as Inniskillin Wines Inc. There is also Chateau des Charmes

Wines Ltd. of St. Davids, and Chateau-Gai Wines of Niagara Falls, which also has won international awards.

In addition, there is Colio Wines of Harrow. I am sure the member for Kent-Elgin will be delighted to have recognition made of the winery from his area. There is also Hillebrand Estates Winery Ltd. of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and I have referred to Inniskillin Wines Inc., also of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The member for Welland-Thorold mentioned Jordan and Ste-Michelle Cellars Ltd. of St. Catharines, which also has won international awards, for which it is to be complimented. Outside the Niagara area we have London Winery Ltd., which is a very significant producer in Ontario. We also have one of the smaller wineries, which the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) I think was going to mention but the name of which eluded him; that is Montravin Cellars Ltd. of Beamsville.

In addition to those 11 members of the council, we have three wineries that are more newly upon the scene and making great progress in contributing to the wine production in this province. I refer to the Pelee Island Vineyards of Kingsville, which has its growing facilities right on Pelee Island, the Rief winery of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Charal Winery of Blenheim. While these wineries are not members of the council at this time, nevertheless they are some of the smaller but very active wine producers in the province.

Together, as a group of 14, these wine producers are contributing very much to the economy of Ontario.

On the grape growers' side of the partnership that has come to this government asking for extension of the legislation in the interest of the wine industry, as the member for Brock has pointed out, there are now 993 grape growers in Ontario. They are participants of the board, which is one of 22 agricultural marketing boards in Ontario. Collectively, they have 24,000 acres of grapes under production, worth approximately \$32 million. It is no small contribution to the economy of Ontario and in particular to the economy of the Niagara area.

I emphasize what the member for Brock was saying a few moments ago about the number of people involved and gainfully employed in the industry. I think that bears highlighting. I believe there are some 1,350 employees working with the wine producers, and in a moment or two I will have the numbers involved in grape growing as well. A very significant contribution is being

made by a lot of people who are gainfully employed in this industry.

While it would be preferable to be self-sufficient in the growing of grapes and the production of wine in this province, which we hope the industry will strive for and which in fact it is doing, I think we understand that a moderate balance has been arrived at while we are going through this process. We are allowing a reasonable amount of blending to take place to ensure that the support of the local industries is preserved and that a limited number of imports will be permitted into the wineries' production each year.

Under the legislation, and particularly within the regulations of this act, up to 15 per cent of the grapes used by any winery can be allowed as imports in one year. Last year, by regulation, there was an amendment that allowed a slight upgrading to 18.5 per cent. The content of the wine itself cannot exceed 30 per cent as far as the blending of the imported wine is concerned.

There are very strict controls in existence to ensure there will be a strong involvement of the industry at the local level. I point out that we are not without problems. I will concede that point. Nevertheless, great progress is being made both as to the quality and production of wines and with regard to the blending process.

4:40 p.m.

As I think most members understand and are aware, approximately 80 per cent of the grapes imported into Canada come from California. It is largely the vinifera grape that is introduced here from California. As the member for Welland-Thorold pointed out, grape and grape products rank third in farm products imported into Canada. In making that comment, he took the Minister of Agriculture and Food to task for not going to self-sufficiency and thereby avoiding the necessity of importing these grapes.

I think it is clearly understood by people in the know, particularly the member for Brock, that the larger demand for domestic wines is because of the careful blending that takes place of the domestic white labrusca grapes with the imported vinifera grape from California.

The member for Welland-Thorold should understand there is this necessity for continued blending. Understanding this, he should not be taking the Minister of Agriculture and Food to task for allowing importation of grapes because I think in time we will attain self-sufficiency.

I would point out that the sunset provision has been contained in the legislation over the years because it was hoped the advances being made by

the industry might permit us, over two-year stages, eventually to arrive at the objective of complete self-sufficiency. Of course, it is important that a further two-year extension be granted at this time because there is still progress to be made in this regard.

I would point out that the importing of grapes does assist the Ontario wine producers as well as growers, and that has to be clearly stated on the record. It may seem to be an inconsistency, but I can assure the members it is not. While the blending provides an improved flavour profile, in so doing it provides a better market acceptability. We have to recognize the facts of life, and the people who are the first and foremost to recognize this fact of life are the wine council and the grape growers themselves. They are the people who have asked for this legislation. That being known, it is therefore important that all of us be in support of what is being asked for by the grape growers and the wine council.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to comment on the observations made by the member for Welland-Thorold who, while supportive, was at the same time somewhat critical with regard to the pricing system that has been established in Ontario. I think the historical situation that has existed since the first legislation was introduced in 1976 does bear repeating and elaboration for just a moment or two.

Until 1983 there was a provision whereby, with the consent of the Ontario grape-growing industry, there be a handling charge imposed on wines.

Mr. McClellan: What would you do if we were opposing? Would you be filibustering if we were opposing?

Mr. Williams: That is right. The member would be in real trouble if he were in opposition.

Mr. McClellan: This is a filibuster. You do not want this bill to pass.

Mr. Williams: I am learning from the pros over there. Prior to October 1981, the markups on wines were as follows—and I think it is important to know this: Ontario table wines were marked up 58 per cent, Canadian wines 105 per cent and imported wines 123 per cent.

One might be critical of what transpired in 1981. It was decided in the budget of 1981 that the markups would be reduced and the handling charge of 65 cents per bottle on imported wines, which I referred to, would be imposed. This has been referred to by my colleagues this afternoon, including the member for Prescott-Russell, who is leaving the chamber at the moment. We were running into difficulties with the GATT arrange-

ment. This government and the industry were put under extreme pressure by the United States, which felt we were being discriminatory in our practices.

Accordingly, to enjoy the reciprocal arrangements that have historically prevailed between the United States and Canada on the importing of spirits, it was decided, after review by an Ontario government-industry task force in 1982, that the handling charge of 65 cents should be dropped.

I stress that at that time this was discussed with the industry, both with the Wine Council of Ontario and the grape growers. Options were reviewed, including a so-called floor price or merchandising fee which would apply to all wines, or, as a third option, a subsidy program that would be designed to assist the Ontario industry specifically. I want to stress that it was the wineries and grape growers that proposed the floor-price approach be implemented, so the nondiscriminatory reference price, as I like to refer to it, was implemented with the support of the industry. The other options were discarded at that time.

I would be the first to admit the introduction of the nondiscriminatory reference price caused some fluctuations. Some of the domestic wines did go up in price, but a large percentage was reduced in price.

Mr. McClellan: Are you still talking? What are you trying to persuade us to do? Change our minds?

Mr. Williams: I did not hear that gratuitous remark by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan).

Mr. McClellan: Why is he holding up passage of the bill?

Mr. Williams: I am approaching the end of my remarks if the members will bear with me for a few moments more.

It is important to give an overview of the situation, because I share with the members who have spoken before me this afternoon the concerns and problems that still exist in the industry. The marketing methods and the sale of wines domestically have been developed by working with the wine council and the Ontario grape growers. It is through them and on their behalf that we bring forward this legislation.

4:50 p.m.

I mentioned earlier the number of jobs in jeopardy, as far as the producers are concerned, is approximately 1,350. As far as the grape growers are concerned, the figure I had in mind, which is the case today, was 16,000 jobs at risk

amongst the grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula alone. We are talking about a significant number of people who are gainfully employed in that industry. I think we have all shared in putting the importance of the industry on the record today.

I would point out that further submissions have been made by the wine council in recent months because of declining sales. With regard to domestic wines, it is apparent there has been a slippage of about six per cent, while the overall sale of wines in Ontario has increased by five to six per cent. I acknowledge that fact. We recognize that is a problem.

The member for Welland-Thorold, who has momentarily left the chamber, was seeking the statistics for March. It would appear there was a very serious decline of 22.5 per cent. Those are the most current figures available to us. We do not intend to hide those figures because they are factual and we understand they go to the very heart of the problem before us.

By the same token, with the efforts of the wine council and the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board in sharing further possible options with the government and most recently with the Treasurer to try to assist the industry, I am confident our wine industry will prosper not only in the short term but in the long term. It will be restored to the healthy industry it was in recent times.

In closing, I simply state this government is committed to and supportive of the wine industry in this province without qualification. The legislation we have before us today is clear evidence of that commitment and support. We will continue to give that support to a very important industry of this province. I am delighted that members of the opposition parties, along with the member for Brock, will heartily endorse the enactment of this legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL CORPORATIONS ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, second reading of Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have an opening statement with regard to the bill.

I am introducing for second reading the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act. This act is intended to update legislation that has remained essentially unchanged for 84 years. At the same time, it will remove some technical deficiencies

in the current legislation and allow us to treat all Canadian corporations equally.

During the second reading of the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act last October, some members expressed concerns about a corporation's power in land transactions. Those concerns have been addressed by eliminating a section in the original bill that would have removed the ultra vires defence by an extra-provincial corporation. Instead, a clause similar to section 346 of the existing Corporations Act gives all extraprovincial corporations the power to acquire, hold and convey land or an interest therein in Ontario for their use, occupation or the carrying on of their business.

The main feature of the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act is the removal of special licence requirements for Canadian companies incorporated outside Ontario. At present companies incorporated by Quebec by special mutual agreement and by the federal government by virtue of the Constitution do not need an extraprovincial licence to do business in Ontario.

However, companies incorporated by the other eight provinces must be licensed. The Extra-Provincial Corporations Act will remove that discrepancy. Foreign corporations will still need an extraprovincial licence to operate here.

As I have emphasized before, this bill will eliminate unnecessary paperwork without lessening our control over corporations that operate here.

I will now turn to some specific provisions in this bill to show how it differs from the existing Corporations Act.

First, I should point out the definition of business has been expanded to include nonprofit activity. For the first time, foreign nonprofit corporations will need a licence to carry on activities in Ontario.

The bill also contains a clear definition of what constitutes carrying on business as opposed to the somewhat ambiguous definition in the Corporations Act. Ownership of land and provision of services are now recognized as business activities.

The new legislation will streamline some procedures. For example, there will be three classes of corporations—federal, provincial and foreign—as opposed to the 11 classes now set out in the Corporations Act.

Also, the power of deciding whether a company can operate in Ontario will be transferred from the minister to a director appointed to oversee the act. Along with this transfer of power, new elements of procedural fairness are

added in the bill. For example, a right of appeal to the Divisional Court will exist when a licence is refused or cancelled or when a corporate name is found to be objectionable. In addition, sufficient cause for cancellation of a licence or for prohibiting a provincial corporation from operating in Ontario is now clearly defined in the proposed act.

Also clearly defined for the first time are rules on the use of a name by provincial or foreign corporations. Those guidelines will prohibit the use of names that may, for instance, deceive the public. Under the current legislation there are no explicit rules on the continued appointment of a company's agent for service in Ontario. This deficiency will be rectified by requiring foreign corporations to maintain an agent for service in Ontario at all times.

These are the main features of the bill.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, Bill 5 has returned to us after a discussion in the Legislature when it was Bill 103. As I recall, that discussion took place on November 22, 1983.

It is necessary to set out briefly an example of the situation which causes this bill to be back before the House. This is with respect to the property known as Plaza 100, an apartment building at 100 Wellesley St. East in Toronto.

5 p.m.

In 1982 the building was sold by Cadillac Fairview Corp. to 481076 Ontario Inc. That numbered company was formed on May 25, 1981, by a law firm. The sole director on that date was Jack Tse, who was also the sole director of Fairwin Investments Ltd. On August 13, 1981, Laurence Caroe became vice-president of that company.

On August 3, 1982, that numbered company assigned its purchaser's interest in the agreement to purchase and sale of this building at 100 Wellesley St. East to a company called Deerhurst Investment Ltd. Deerhurst Investment Ltd. happens to be a Liberian corporation and its signing officer was Lucy Y. S. Gomersall of Hong Kong. Deerhurst is actually a subsidiary and is wholly owned by another company called Cadogan Investment Ltd. Again Mr. Caroe signed for the Ontario numbered company.

On October 1, 1982, the deal between Deerhurst and Cadillac-Fairview closed, and Mr. Caroe acted for Deerhurst, while the law firm of Goodman and Goodman acted for Cadillac-Fairview. Deerhurst then proceeds to make Fairwin the property manager, and members might note that the president of Fairwin, Mr. Jack Tse, is the nephew-in-law of the president of

Deerhurst, Lucy Gomersall. On August 29, 1983, Deerhurst signed a contract with SPAR Property Consultants Ltd. authorizing that company to represent Deerhurst before the Residential Tenancy Commission.

So we have a circumstance where applications are now being made for changes in the rental prospects that the tenants would have to face in that building. Under the present law, which is part VIII of the Corporations Act, both Deerhurst and Fairwin are in breach of section 348, Deerhurst because it is acting on behalf of Cadogan, its parent corporation, a Liberian corporation without an extraprovincial licence, and Fairwin because it is acting on behalf of Deerhurst, another Liberian corporation without an extraprovincial licence.

Rather than prosecute these companies, whose lack of licence has caused delay and turmoil in their rent review application, the ministry is attempting to exonerate them quietly through bringing Bill 5 before us this afternoon.

In the debate on Bill 103 last November, I raised a number of issues, which I will not repeat in detail here other than to remind members that three of the areas I had referred to have been corrected and improved.

First, the government has revised the legislation before reintroducing it in the present form of Bill 5, which is before us this afternoon. Second, I agree that section 21 of the old bill certainly has been improved, although some problems still remain. Third, clause 24(m) of Bill 103, which is now clause 25(m) of Bill 5, has been corrected following the suggestions I had made, and the same approach applies to section 15.

But there are four outstanding areas of concern I would like to share with the parliamentary assistant with the prospect that the questions I raise may well be answered. If they are not answered, I would hope we would have the opportunity of having this bill sent to the standing committee on administration of justice for review and submissions, particularly from the tenants' groups involved in this particular building and perhaps from others. However, that being said, it may be the House will prefer to deal with the bill in committee here and that the answers may well be forthcoming from the parliamentary assistant or the minister.

First, I would direct members' attention to subsection 20(1) of the bill that is before us. The bill really waters down the strength of the penalty provisions by providing that a person can be found guilty of contravening the act or its regulations or a condition of a licence and other

areas only if the person commits such an act without reasonable cause. The existing penalty provisions under part VIII of the Corporations Act do not contain that phrase "without reasonable cause." Rather, it is somewhat more straightforward and clear cut. The end result is that unless an extraprovincial corporation has a licence and unless that licence is in force, then the extraprovincial corporation or its agent is guilty of an offence in accordance with section 348.

First, one of the recommendations I think should be before the House as we discuss this bill in principle is whether the words "without reasonable cause" should be deleted. Under subsection 20(2)—

Mr. Williams: Reasonable cause in what section?

Mr. Breithaupt: That is in subsection 20(1).

In subsection 20(2), the directors of an extraprovincial corporation can be convicted of an offence on only two grounds. First, if the corporation is guilty of that offence; and second if the directors "authorized, permitted or acquiesced" to the offence.

I realize the minister's rationale in adding these two provisos to the legislation may well be able to be explained by the parliamentary assistant. However, these two provisos which serve as hurdles would have to be overcome before an agent could be convicted under the proposed act. The wording of this section creates a potential loophole in that it provides that an agent could not be charged until and unless the extraprovincial corporation had been convicted.

By not conducting its own business affairs in Ontario, such a corporation could not be found guilty under this subsection and as a consequence the agent would also be immune. Even if the corporation was found guilty, the agent would have to be knowingly guilty of the same offence before a conviction of the agent can be obtained.

The ministry is well aware that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to charge and convict an extraprovincial corporation of an offence. Therefore, it is essential that the justice system be designed in such a way as to allow for the swift charging and conviction of any agent representing an extraprovincial corporation that is unlicensed.

I draw to the attention of the parliamentary assistant section 339 of the existing legislation. It clearly states, "No person, as the representative or agent of or acting in any other capacity for any such extraprovincial corporation, shall carry on

any of its business in Ontario unless it has received such licence."

I do not know why we have the water somewhat muddled with subsection 20(2). Clearly that kind of approach is unnecessary. Since the penalty provisions in that section can be interpreted to include the agent, there is no need to create confusion by placing more restrictive conditions on agent convictions through subsection 20(2). Accordingly, I think the references to agents should be removed from this subsection. I would suggest the ministry should consider deleting the words "and every person acting as its representative in Ontario" from that subsection.

In the third area, I would refer the members to subsection 21(1). This subsection deals with one's ability to maintain an action before the courts. With respect to the Plaza 100 situation, the subsection enables Deerhurst and its agents to comply with the new act and to be absolved from any infractions of our existing law. If this subsection is not deleted, Deerhurst and its agents could not be prosecuted for breaching the former Corporations Act. So this section should be amended by adding after the word "act" in subsection 21(1) the words, "or by part VIII of the Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof."

5:10 p.m.

The fourth area of concern deals with section 22. The concerns may well be clarified in this area by having the minister or the parliamentary assistant give us the appropriate legal interpretation of the section.

The present law gives licensed extraprovincial corporations the power "to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise, to hold, to mortgage, to sell, to alienate and to convey any land or interest therein in Ontario." The proposed section gives licensed extraprovincial corporations the power "to acquire, hold and convey any land or interest therein in Ontario." Why have the actions of purchasing, leasing, mortgaging, selling, and alienating been removed from this list? Are they implicit in the language that has been retained and would this be a straightforward matter, or would it be subject to some judicial interpretation?

It is worth noting that Deerhurst Investment Ltd. has mortgaged land without a licence. For example, there is the Plaza 100 site. Is this section designed to get that company off the hook, as it were?

I suggest those are four particular themes within this bill that will have to be addressed by the parliamentary assistant. I look forward to

hearing from him, either at this time or when the bill is in committee.

One area that has been completely overlooked in this bill is the status of prosecutions in progress. It is our position that a section should be added to ensure that, notwithstanding the repeal of part VIII of the Corporations Act, any prosecution under that act can still proceed where the circumstances are known and where the opportunity is there.

On December 20, 1983, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations on behalf of Plaza 100 tenants. It asked that charges be laid against Fairwin and against its president and sole director. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read the relevant parts of this letter into the debate this afternoon because the reply from the ministry also has to be considered as we debate this bill.

This letter, delivered by hand, was from Mr. Claude Latrémouille of Suite 2712, 100 Wellesley St. East. He is the secretary of that tenants' association.

Mr. Conway: Some pretty important people live at 100 Wellesley St. East.

Mr. Breithaupt: He wrote the letter to Mr. Thomas G. Johnson at the investigation and enforcement branch, business practices division, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It is entitled: "Charges Under the Provincial Offences Act against Fairwin Investments Ltd. and Mr. Jack Tse, president, secretary and sole director of Fairwin Investments Ltd."

"Dear Sir: I hereby ask you to cause two separate charges to be laid under the Provincial Offences Act against—the two parties I have just mentioned—for the following reasons.

"Since October 1, 1982, and every day thereafter, they knowingly and unlawfully did contravene section 339 of the Corporations Act by becoming a representative or agent of or acting in any other capacity for Deerhurst Investment Ltd., a corporation within class 11 mentioned in section 337 of the Corporations Act, incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Liberia and without a licence issued to it under part VIII of the Corporations Act, and did thereby commit an offence contrary to section 348 of the Corporations Act, RSO 1980, chapter 95 as amended.

"Most of the evidence related to these charges has been filed with the Residential Tenancy Commission, file number 126-479-TO. I refer to:

"1. An agency authorization signed by Mr. Jack Tse dated November 7, 1983, and shown to me for the first time on December 12, 1983.

"2. A contract between Deerhurst Investment Ltd. and Fairwin Investments Ltd. dated October 1, 1982, a copy of which was received by the Residential Tenancy Commission on November 7, 1983. It is pursuant to that contract that Fairwin carries on most, if not all, of Deerhurst's business in Ontario, i.e., the management of Plaza 100, a residential complex where I reside.

"3. A contract between Deerhurst Investment Ltd. and SPAR Property Consultants Ltd. dated August 29, 1983, signed by Mr. Jack Tse for Deerhurst and filed with the Residential Tenancy Commission on October 24, 1983.

"Your ministry should provide you with the evidence that Deerhurst Investment Ltd. has never been issued a licence under part VIII of the Corporations Act; that Fairwin Investments Ltd. is an Ontario corporation (number 488635), incorporated on August 13, 1981; that its president, secretary and sole director is Mr. Jack Tse, and that its head office is at 31 Lascelles Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, M5P 2C8.

"Mr. Jack Tse's ordinary place of business (he is a dentist), is at Suite 201, 3040 Palstan Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L4Y 2Z6, which is the address where he should be served the summons to be issued pursuant to the information to be laid.

"As to the evidence that Deerhurst Investment Ltd. is a corporation from the Republic of Liberia, the corporate seal used by Deerhurst in instrument number CT552762 at the land registry office for the city of Toronto reads as follows: 'Deerhurst Investment Ltd.—Republic of Liberia—corporate seal.' An excerpt from this instrument showing the seal is also on file with the Residential Tenancy Commission. The commissioner assigned to the case is Mr. Kirpal Sagoo.

"Should charges not be laid before December 31, 1983, I shall return before a justice of the peace to lay the information myself. Sincerely yours, Mr. Claude Latrémouille."

That letter was delivered by hand, as I have said, to the ministry. The basis for the charges which were suggested is, of course, that Fairwin has acted as agent for Deerhurst and Deerhurst is an extraprovincial corporation without a licence.

The province has not laid charges. The ministry has not decided to go ahead in this matter; instead, we see Bill 5 reintroduced, in effect, in this House.

The apparent decision of the ministry to not lay charges against Fairwin is seemingly based on the ministry contention that Deerhurst itself is not carrying on business in Ontario. This is com-

pletely irrelevant to the issue. The tenants are not interested in charging Deerhurst. Thus, the only relevant question is whether Fairwin is carrying on Deerhurst's business in Ontario. The present legislation does not require that an extraprovincial corporation be carrying on business here before an agent can be convicted.

The minister must be asked to address this matter, in particular because we have evidence I can place before you in the form of a notice sent to the tenants of Plaza 100 on March 14, 1984. It refers to two matters, one of some plumbing inspection and the second of repairs to the garage door. It ends, "Thank you for your patience and understanding. Fairwin Investments Ltd., Managers for Deerhurst Investment Ltd."

Fairwin appears to think it is, in fact, acting in a manner which would show that agency is the case.

A reply was received from the ministry. It was signed by Mrs. Helen A. Vanner, the acting deputy minister. It went back to our friend the secretary of the tenants' association on December 28, 1983, with a copy to the Honourable Susan Fish, MPP, the member for St. George, in whose constituency this building is. The response reads:

"Re Plaza 100:

"The minister has asked me to thank you on his behalf for your recent correspondence requesting that Bill 103, the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act 1983, be amended. Many tenants in your building have written about this matter. Unfortunately, the Legislature adjourned before the bill was passed into law and it will be necessary to reintroduce it in the spring."

I might add parenthetically to that first paragraph that given the flaws in Bill 103, it is hardly unfortunate it was not passed. Mrs. Vanner goes on to refer to certain provisions in part VIII of the Corporations Act which would be changed. She continues as follows:

"Although not passed, the bill was debated in the Legislature on the evening of November 22 last. During the debate, your building and Deerhurst Investment Ltd. were mentioned. Two concerns in particular were raised. The first centred around the proposition that Deerhurst Investment's ownership of Plaza 100 might be challenged on the basis of the wording contained in section 346 of the Corporations Act. Concern was expressed that the bill would not permit such a challenge. The bill was not retroactive. This meant that any rights, obligations or disabilities which affect you or Deerhurst Investment Ltd. at

this time would not have been affected had the proposed act become law."

Then Mrs. Vanner goes on to quote subsection 15(1).

Even though the bill is not retroactive, it does have a retroactive consequence. The consequence, of course, is referred to later in this letter when Mrs. Vanner writes: "The subsection was designed to protect residents of Ontario who have dealings with foreign corporations by providing that those foreign corporations cannot walk away from a deal merely because they do not have a licence to carry on business here."

I would reply to that quotation by commenting that is exactly what the subsection was designed not to do. If that was true, why did the government remove that subsection in the new version, Bill 5, which is before us today?

5:20 p.m.

Mrs. Vanner goes on: "The second concern was with respect to the proposed penalty provisions in the bill. It was suggested that an agent in Ontario who acted for an unlicensed foreign corporation could be immune from prosecution if the foreign corporation itself were not first convicted of an offence. This is not the case.

"An agent who acts for an unlicensed corporation can be prosecuted directly. In addition, under the proposed act where a foreign corporation was convicted of an offence, its representative can also be guilty of an offence for mere acquiescence in the actions of the foreign corporation, even where that representative might not otherwise have been guilty. Thus, the bill contains stronger penalty provisions than those currently in force."

That paragraph is partly true and partly false. Certainly in my understanding, the first part of the concern with respect to immunity from prosecution is the case under subsection 20(2). The second area referred to in that paragraph is true with respect to mere acquiescence, but it seems to be irrelevant with respect to the building known as Plaza 100.

Mrs. Vanner then goes on to complete her letter by saying:

"Please be assured that the bill will not be reintroduced without careful consideration of views which you and other tenants have expressed to the minister. In view of this, the minister does not feel that a meeting with your association is needed at this time.

"If your landlord wants to increase your rent by more than six per cent, it will have to abide by the provisions and procedures set out in the

Residential Tenancies Act and, in addition, will be subject the Residential Complexes Financing Costs Restraint Act, recently amended to extend to December 31, 1984.

"Thank you for taking the trouble to write to the minister on this very important matter."

I am surprised that careful consideration of the views of these tenants could be readily obtained without bothering to meet with them. Certainly the tenants felt it was necessary to meet with the minister, even though the minister apparently was not able to meet with them.

The end result is that the tenants of the building known as Plaza 100 are most concerned about the bill that is before us today because, in their view, it will not address the problems that have arisen concerning the matter of extraprovincial licence and the question as to whether an agency did occur.

As I have said, the apparent decision of the ministry not to lay charges against Fairwin Investments Ltd. was seemingly based on the ministry's contention that Deerhurst itself is not carrying on business in Ontario. It is with that contention that I respectfully disagree. I believe the only relevant question is whether Fairwin is carrying on Deerhurst's business in Ontario, and in my view that is the case.

We have seen a number of changes in this bill. The comments made by the parliamentary assistant in his statement do set out some of the changes which I had suggested in Bill 103 as it was debated before us. There are certain other areas I have referred to where the bill is deficient.

I look forward to having those questions and suggestions resolved at the committee stage, whether it be outside the House or in the committee of the whole House. It is only on the understanding that those questions will be answered that we would be able to allow the bill to proceed.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, when we debated the predecessor of this bill, which of course was not passed on November 22, 1983, the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) and I raised a number of concerns at that time. The bill that is now before us, Bill 5, in some way addresses those concerns:

This is the kind of bill that always makes one wonder to what extent one should be taking up the time of the House doing the work the ministry should have done before it introduced the bill. Let me give just one example. We find the parliamentary assistant to the minister indicating to the House that one of the big steps forward this bill accomplishes is to reduce the number of

classes of extraprovincial corporations from 11 to three, and that makes very good sense.

The bill sets out very carefully what the three classes are by stating categorically that extraprovincial corporations shall be classified into the following classes: class 1, class 2, class 3. But the ministry can never let go. Section 25 of the bill, which is the power of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make "regulations respecting any matter he considers necessary," includes those magical words "without limiting the generality of the foregoing, regulations...prescribing classes of extraprovincial corporations and exempting any class of extraprovincial corporation from all or any part of the provisions of this act upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be prescribed."

So what the ministry has accomplished on the one hand, it has provided assurance to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by regulation to take a backward step and to produce additional classes and to subdivide classes. I really question whether bills that have been floating around in the ministry for consideration for such a length of time should come before the assembly with that kind of inherent contradiction in the bill.

I am pleased that there was a minor gesture towards the question with respect to the holding of land by extraprovincial corporations and in particular that it was not limited only to non-Canadian extraprovincial corporations but includes all classes as being classes of corporations that are limited. If my reading of the clause is correct, I believe that in section 22, which was not in the previous bill, there are words of limitation expressed in the positive sense that such corporations may hold lands and interest in land etc. "necessary for its actual use and occupation or for carrying on its undertaking."

I take that to be a clear indication that such corporations are not entitled to hold land in Ontario which does not meet the test that it is "necessary for its actual use and occupation or for carrying on its undertaking." Needless to say, nowhere is there any obligation on any extraprovincial corporation to satisfy the ministry that the land it owns is subject to those limitations.

One would have thought it would have also been included, when it was inserted in this bill, under the items with respect to sufficient cause which gives the ministry power to pick up or cancel the licence. That is not so.

It seems to me this kind of bill should not be dropped into the assembly after the discussions that have been going on in the corporate world for a long time without a great deal of specific care

and attention directed towards the phraseology that is used.

From an elementary corporate point of view, it is quite simple that any non-Canadian corporation can avoid the necessity of having a licence in Ontario by the simple expedient of incorporating a company in any other jurisdiction in Canada. That company does not need to have a licence to carry on its business.

The corporate gymnastics that lawyers and accountants play in the field of corporate law are not a matter of major concern to us here in the assembly. I say to the parliamentary assistant that perhaps at some time these points, and the points my colleague the member for Kitchener has raised, will be addressed in a businesslike, direct and straightforward way by the government.

5:30 p.m.

I want to make one comment with respect to the land question. I do not believe this is the appropriate place to raise the question of monitoring the ownership of land by corporations in Ontario, foreign or otherwise. But I again ask the minister whether he will take the trouble to read in detail the statement made by the Ontario Law Reform Commission at the time it was dealing with the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, which was the act we repealed, and that was that there was a very real question of policy with respect to the capacity of the government, in the day of the kind of information retrieval systems we have, to set up a process by which the ownership of land by corporations in this province—in this instance I am speaking particularly of foreign corporations—should be monitored under a system of monitoring so that we know who owns the land so far as corporations are concerned.

Of course, I have other views with respect to the question of the ownership of land by persons who are not nationals of Canada, persons who are not Canadian citizens; and the whole question of the ownership of agricultural land is another aspect of the same question.

I spoke about some of those concerns on November 22, 1983; I have spoken about them on a number of other occasions. Many of my colleagues, those who sat on the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism years ago, members of all parties, had things to say about this question of the maintenance in Ontario of control over the ownership of land through an adequate monitoring system. My friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), who was a member of that committee some years ago, introduced for first reading on March 27, 1984,

Bill 16, An Act respecting a Register of Ontario Land Information.

I am saying that behind this nitty-gritty piece of corporate legal legislation, legerdemain or whatever one wants to call it there lies a profound policy question that the government will not address. I suggest to the minister and to his colleagues in the cabinet that when they have nothing else to do some day they should sit down and read the law reform commission report on the question, which focuses on the government the responsibility of developing the kind of policy that would ensure a sense of identity of Canadians with respect to the ownership of their land.

If there is any index that is important in a case of national identity next to language, culture and other matters, it is the question of who owns the land upon which we walk and move and live and have our being. Those are important questions, and the longer we delay the more difficult it will be to get the kind of control over this question that a proper monitoring system would achieve.

In the time I have sat in the House, apart from the deliberations of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism, I have never had any sense that either of the other two parties, the government party or the Liberal Party, had any real commitment to that question.

I must except from that, of course, my friend the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), who time and again has spoken on the question with respect to the ownership of agricultural land by persons who are not Canadians, and I think this question must be addressed by government as a policy.

It is one of those matters on which I feel deeply and could speak at length, but I do not intend to; I have addressed it on a number of other occasions. However, I do not want anyone to think for one moment that the introduction of section 22 into this bill is in any way an answer to the major policy question that underlies the question of the ownership of land in the province.

I am pleased to hear from the parliamentary assistant that he intends to amend the subsequent bill, Bill 6, the Corporations Information Amendment Act, for the purpose of ensuring that there will be an agent for service in Ontario as we abolish the requirement that there be a licensing process.

Quite properly, I have spoken with my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), who has now come into the House. Each of us has spoken to the parliamentary assistant, and I had an opportunity to speak to the

minister about this question. I was glad to see they were receptive to introducing the amendment—and I am not particularly concerned about who introduces the amendment—which will provide that extraprovincial corporations must have an agent for service in the province.

I might as well make the point here so that people will understand the reasons for my concerns with respect to that question. A former constituent of mine, living outside the Riverdale area at present, was faced with this problem and came to see me about it. I want to put it on the record so that nobody misunderstands the omission in the bill which is going to be rectified by providing an obligation, regardless of whether it has to have a licence, for an agent for service in the province.

Mr. Harold Tarala came to see me at my constituency office about a year ago about his situation. He turned up one day at the Eaton Centre to find that the Swensen's Ice Cream Co. operation did not exist any more. My friend Mr. Tarala had a contract for the janitorial work in connection with cleaning the premises occupied by whoever it was who was selling Swensen's ice cream.

A few days after he came to see me, I found out there was no way I could find anybody in Ontario to deal with the matter, so I wrote to:

"Mr. Robert R. Munro, President, Swensen's Ice Cream Co. of Canada Ltd., 8260 Manitoba Street, Vancouver, British Columbia.

"Dear Mr. Munro:

"I am writing to you about a constituent of mine, Mr. Harold Tarala, who is carrying on a small cleaning business as a sole proprietor under the name H. T. Handyman Co. He had a contract with your company for the cleaning of your store in the Toronto Eaton Centre.

"As I understand it, the store in the Eaton Centre changed hands abruptly on January 5, 1983, and my constituent was left with his contract terminated and an amount of \$835 owing to him as follows," and I set out the particulars of the \$835.

"Mr. Tarala has had no success whatsoever in obtaining payment of this amount, and I would appreciate your co-operation in arranging for him to receive prompt payment.

"May I hear from you at your earliest convenience."

I assumed I would hear. Of course, I did not hear. Later on, when no reply had been forthcoming, I sent him a registered receipt acknowledgement letter:

"Dear Mr. Munro:

"It is now some four months since I wrote to you regarding a constituent of mine, Mr. Harold Tarala, who was left with his contract terminated when your store in the Eaton Centre in Toronto changed hands.

"For your information, I enclose a copy of my letter to you of March 14 and would very much appreciate receiving a prompt reply from you regarding the situation."

Needless to say, I have had no response. This sort of modernization of corporate law which says, in a great expanding sense, that Canadian corporations anywhere in Canada do not have to have a licence to operate a business here—and there is no provision in the bills as they now stand for an agent for service—does a disservice to people in a situation such as Mr. Harold Tarala is in.

5:40 p.m.

It does not take a lawyer to say that to collect \$835 by suing Swensen's Ice Cream Co. in Vancouver is beyond the capacity of the legal system to deal with. Not only would you have to pay the \$835 in fees if you were able to collect it, but also you would not be able to find a lawyer prepared to process that kind of claim. The place to process that kind of claim is in Toronto, in the small claims court or in the provincial court, civil jurisdiction.

I wanted to put on the record that there is not some theoretical problem involved. There are many people placed in that position. We have to be certain we maintain a very clear register in the office of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations so that every corporation, other than an Ontario corporation, which is required by law to have its head office here must have a named agent with a proper address and a proper method of reaching that person in order that writs and claims can be served and this kind of question resolved.

I thought it was appropriate to make that point on this particular bill. I have no other comments. I do not think the bill deserves any particular further consideration by this House. There may be matters that can be equally well dealt with under the succeeding bill.

Unless my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre or someone else wishes the bill to go to committee of the whole House, I see no particular need for it to do so. Our position is that we will not oppose the bill. Let us get it over with. Let us avoid Parkinson's law, filling up the available space of the time of the business of the House because there is no other worthwhile legislation for us to deal with.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I am loath to speak after that last comment of my colleague.

I would basically like to endorse the proposals put forward by my friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), particularly with respect to providing a means by which persons or corporations resident in this province can gain access to extraprovincial corporations.

When I raised this matter with the parliamentary assistant, it was in relation to proposed amendments I will put forward when we get to Bill 6. The amendments would cover the case my friend the member for Riverdale has raised. The parliamentary assistant suggested I read sections in Bill 5. The sections in Bill 5 provide there be an agent for service or the equivalent for an extraprovincial corporation that is in class 2 or class 3. That is a corporation that is not only incorporated outside of Ontario but also outside of Canada.

However, that does not cover extraprovincial corporations where we extend the courtesy of recognizing a provincial incorporation from another province or from one of the territories. It seems to me that situation has to be recognized or we may get into the situation where people will write to Prince Edward Island, for example, or perhaps some other province that is prepared to be overly co-operative in giving people incorporation. They will thereby be allowed to create corporate selves with permission to operate in this province with a minimum of regulation. They will be able to do a midnight flit, to disappear, when it suits their needs. They can then get themselves out from under in terms of potential legal action taken by people in this province.

It is relatively well established—perhaps not in the minds of Ayn Rand or some of the right-wing ideologues who advise the Conservative Party—that incorporation is not just a matter of right. The access to limited liability that comes with incorporation is something that in the history of economic organizations has been found useful because it does encourage people to get into enterprises they would not be prepared to undertake if all their wealth and substance were to be put at risk, no matter what enterprise they happened to be involved in.

In return for limited liability, there are certain obligations to the public, which it seems to me are reasonable for any jurisdiction such as Ontario to accept. All my friend the member for Riverdale was suggesting in a very modest way was that the very least obligation a company should be prepared to accept in return for the

right to do business in this province is that, should matters unfortunately come to the position where some legal action needs to be taken because they cannot be resolved in a private manner, at least one should be able to have access to that company.

Certainly, for matters that would enter into the small claims court, for matters of a few thousand dollars, a person does not really have such access. With airfare and the other costs of access—let us say to the Yukon, Prince Edward Island or Vancouver—effectively there is no reasonable access to legal action for debts of under \$5,000 or \$10,000 in other parts of the country.

I very much hope the parliamentary assistant would accept the proposals being put forward by the member for Riverdale and myself. As I have indicated to him, while we did suggest a form of words, we would certainly be open to any alternative formulation that had been put forward by the ministry's draft people.

If the parliamentary assistant wants to announce that has been the case and sends it across for us to have a look at, we are certainly prepared to be co-operative. It is not the specific words we are wedded to; it is the concept we are seeking to have included in this matched pair of bills, Bills 5 and 6. As the member for Riverdale said, however, we can make the necessary amendments on Bill 6 and will do so.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to this legislation.

I was a member who sat on the select committee a number of years ago as we tried to do the report involving land. We requested information on all the corporations involved in land in and around Toronto to try to assess why land was escalating so rapidly, who owned it, for what purpose it was being acquired and so on.

The parliamentary assistant might check with some of his colleagues, several of them who are now in the cabinet, about the tremendous frustration the committee experienced as we tried to get a handle on who owned the land. It was interesting that all the corporations, from Wimpey down, told us they did not know who owned the land. No one had any idea who owned the land between here and Oshawa going east or between here and Hamilton going west. No one had any idea whether or not they were just sitting on it until the value of land escalated by the expansion of Toronto. No one could tell us a thing. For three full days the committee tried to find out. We questioned the people involved in

the construction industry in this province and tried to get a handle on it.

The member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) continually worries about the purchase of land in agricultural areas. But we were completely frustrated when we tried to get a handle on who in God's name owned what and whether they were Canadian, American or from offshore. We heard all kinds of stories about how huge tracts of land in the Haliburtons were being purchased outright by offshore interests.

They were getting tremendous tax write-offs in their own countries for purchasing land, say outside Germany. They were buying here in Ontario and they were getting a credit in the form of a tax write-off for that.

The select committee tried for three days, but after almost absolute frustration we knew we were not going to get an answer to any of the questions we were raising about foreign ownership of land and what was going to transpire in this regard.

Anyone may go back and look at the select committee report. It runs for maybe 60 or 80 pages and expresses concern about people selling their land. For example, if one wants to go down to Lake Erie, he will find every chunk of land is owned by someone offshore. We found one cannot even get down to the shoreline in many parts along the lake. The report has a whole series of recommendations to government as to what it should be doing to get a handle on what is going on.

5:50 p.m.

Out of frustration a couple of years ago I moved a private member's bill which called for a land registry. The land registry very simply is to try to establish who is buying what. They would have to set out the person's interest in the land, describe the use of the land, declare whether the person is a nonresident and set out the municipal address and a brief description of the land so we would at least know. It was happening to my friend the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson), who indicated he knew of 23 different farms—I believe that was the figure he gave me—all being purchased by one individual.

It has to cause tremendous fright in the agricultural community if someone is buying up that kind of land. One has to try to assess what is going to happen to the individual farmers in those communities and whether the land is going to be turned over to some corporate farm interest that is going to return virtually to the days of 100 years ago of the absentee landlord and somebody

operating the farm at a very small profit or maybe even at a wage. The mind boggles, but we do not even have an idea.

I have not received much response to this bill, although I have sent it to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to try to get a response. If the government would take that small step of at least knowing who is buying the land, for what purpose he is purchasing the land and whether he is Canadian or non-Canadian, then we in Canada and in Ontario would have some idea of what is going on out there.

I get tired of the arguments. My friend the member for Middlesex will get up and say that so much agricultural land is going out of production. Then the minister will get up and say, "That is not true." Why do we not find out what is going on? Are we not interested enough in our own country to find out who is buying us out?

If one wants to look at recreational land, it became a real problem in northern Ontario because ultimately the Americans, with more money to spend than Canadians, were getting first shot at recreational land and we were losing out there as we are losing out in agricultural land.

Surely we have a responsibility, if not to ourselves at least to our kids, to protect the land for our future use. That is not to discourage any type of investment or anything at all; it is just to know factually what is going on in this country and in this particular province.

I would ask the parliamentary assistant whether his ministry has had an opportunity to review this piece of private member's legislation. Like my colleague, I could not care less who would introduce an amendment that might resolve this dilemma for us of trying to establish who has the land. So be it if the government does it, as long as it achieves the goal we want. What is in there now is really not enough. If one looks at section 22, there certainly is not enough in that section to warn us of what is happening.

I am glad to see my friend the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) come in because he sat on that select committee and helped to make the recommendations on land. The frustrations we experienced in trying to find out who owned what and for what purpose became so frustrating; we could not get a handle on what was going on. Surely it is time for the government of Ontario in its wisdom, if it has any, to put in an amendment that does not do just what this says but goes a lot further in finding out once and for all who is purchasing the land and for what reason.

They might look at this legislation and they might adopt some of the items in it, and protect the future generations who will ultimately own this country. I would ask the parliamentary assistant to respond to that when he makes his remarks.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have certainly appreciated the positive input from the members of the official opposition and the third party this afternoon with regard to Bill 5. To put in perspective what we are talking about, I should point out exactly what this legislation is about. As I indicated in my opening statement, we are trying to modernize and bring up to date legislation that has been essentially sitting on the books in Ontario for the past 84 years. In its present form, under part VIII of the Corporations Act, it is clear to us from our day-to-day operations that the time has come for us to—

Mr. Sargent: Time. Shut him off.

Mr. Williams: I am being harassed by my friend in the back row.

The time has come to modernize and streamline the legislation so that it meets current situations and needs. It is clear this particular legislation is directed towards a very small percentage of the corporations in Ontario, less than one per cent of the 327,000 or so corporations doing business in Ontario.

As I said at the outset and as the members are fully aware, constitutionally the federal corporations are exempt. By agreement with Quebec, those Quebec corporations that do business in Ontario are exempt from having to take out an extraprovincial licence. Thus, we are talking

about fewer than 3,000 companies or less than one per cent of the corporations.

While I would like to elaborate on the generalities, more particularly I would like to go to the specific concerns that have been put forward by the member for Kitchener, the member for Riverdale, the member for Ottawa Centre and the member for Sudbury East. Obviously, time will not permit that to happen. I have responsible and reasoned responses to the concerns raised by the members I have referred to.

Given the fact that it has taken this amount of time to get those concerns before the House, I have been left with insufficient time to address the specifics. I can do nothing now other than to accede to the request from the member for Kitchener that the legislation be referred to committee. He is indicating that one session would be appropriate to deal with some of the specifics, at which time I would be prepared to address the concerns of the members in a full and thorough way.

Because time does not permit me to do otherwise, there is nothing further I can add at this time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on administration of justice.

Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just before you leave the chair, I might remind the House that tonight at 8 o'clock we will be dealing with Bill 28.

The House recessed at 5:59 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, April 17, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 17, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

YOUNG OFFENDERS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Hon. Mr. Drea moved second reading of Bill 28, An Act to provide for the Implementation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada).

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I made a statement on April 5 when the bill was introduced. I would just like to draw to the attention of the House tonight that a minor technical amendment has been provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General in regard to the Courts of Justice Act. I believe legislative counsel has distributed it.

Mr. Nixon: That is what Fred Cass said.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, this one is not Bill 99.

It is a two-line amendment. While we are on second reading, I will try to find legislative counsel and get the members a copy.

Mr. McClellan: Is the minister not going to make a speech?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I made a statement on April 5.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my party I rise to indicate that we are not prepared to support this legislation on second reading.

It is not unlike this government to bring in important matters at the 11th hour, but this time it seems to me the government has gone one better than usual. Its proposals for implementing an act that is nearly two years old have been brought to this House, not at the 11th hour but at 12:01 a.m., specifically four days after the proclamation of the Young Offenders Act in Ottawa.

We are being asked to rush this legislation into law despite the fact it was not until after the proclamation of the act that members of this Legislature even knew which was to be the lead ministry in this act. In short, we are still not sure. We may have another lead ministry for part of the act next year.

Ontario's role in the implementation of this important new treatment of our young offenders in this province has been bungled right from day one. I want to speak about some of the problems, as we see them, in the implementation of this act in the province.

It is typical of this government's handling of this legislation that as of this moment, as the official critic of the Liberal Party in this Legislature on this piece of legislation, I have not even been given a compendium. I have been given no copy of the Young Offenders Act. I have been given no copy of the orders in council of last March 30, by which the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) was given the power to appoint provincial directors and probation officers. I have received not one typewritten word of a compendium that would apparently accompany this act.

That is not the only reason we are not prepared to support this legislation, but I wanted to emphasize that I do not believe that is the way the government should act. This party is not going to stand by on a piece of legislation brought to our attention in this House and passed in a day or in an hour or in a couple of hours and then presented as a fait accompli to the many individuals and agencies so particularly concerned with how this province will implement this new federal legislation.

More important, we will not sit idly by while this government presents the young offenders of this province, who after all need our help, with a policy which adds up to an apparent decision of Ontario to move ahead in a spirit of what has been called minimum compliance.

There is an article in this month's issue of Toronto Life by John Galt. It is entitled Political Delinquency. It is all about this government's inexcusable procrastination in making the crucial decisions pertaining to implementation of this act. I will get into a couple of them specifically in a few minutes. I thought the conclusion is worth repeating. It neatly sums up the indictment against a government which has shown a callous, uncaring attitude towards bringing to reality a piece of legislation which received the unanimous support of the House of Commons nearly two years ago.

Mr. Nixon: Thank God for Pierre Trudeau and Mr. Kaplan.

Mr. Wrye: That was Mr. Clark, I think. Mr. Clark led that other party at that time.

Mr. Galt concludes his article with these words: "We had such a wonderful chance here

with the Young Offenders Act to show our kids the majesty of our law, to show them that the law exists for good reasons and not merely to thwart and punish them. Somewhere down the line the Young Offenders Act may be allowed to fulfil its promise. It is still a quantum leap from what existed before, certainly, but between Ottawa and the provinces the act has been made much less than it should be."

When we talk about the provinces, this is one occasion when Ontario is right at the top of the list. No other province has put up such a defence against Ottawa's funding proposals. No other province has been so intransigent. No other province has indicated it wants money from Ottawa for purposes which would seem to go against the very spirit of the Young Offenders Act.

Let me be quite specific. Ontario keeps complaining about all the money it needs for new detention centres. One article I read—and it must have been a typing mistake because I cannot believe the province started at this number—said the province started the bidding for its capital needs at \$200 million. Since then it has come down.

I see the former Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling) is here. He has been quoted in a number of the articles.

They have come down slowly, first to \$100 million, then to \$90 million, then to \$80 million and now earlier this month the new Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) stood in his place and said this province could do with just about \$65 million.

I would like to know—I think this House deserves an explanation; we did not get it from the minister and maybe we will on the wrapup—what we are going to do with \$65 million. Would we build more detention centres for young offenders? Surely that is the very last thing we are supposed to be doing with those young people who have run into trouble with the law. After all, the Young Offenders Act offers 11 alternatives to incarceration. Perhaps it would be a good idea to use a few of those before rushing to throw our young people in jail.

In coming up with those new centres, this government might want to put a few dollars into them itself, since it ought to remember the incarceration of those 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds, particularly after the act is implemented on April 1, 1985, will begin to ease the overcrowding burden in the present adult centres.

I might even suggest to the minister, if he is so concerned about all the new detention centres

that are needed, he might simply agree with Ottawa and he can get the \$25 million of startup money that Ottawa has offered. Surely that would go some distance to solving the problem.

Interjection.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: This is the implementation of the act and I know the minister is not going to do anything, but somebody in this government is. He is implementing this part of the act and he is going to run this part of the act and maybe he can indicate to his cabinet colleagues that he would like to use this money for this purpose.

The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) indicated in a rather remarkable way the other day the real neglect of this government putting into place the matters this province had to put in place before the proclamation of this act earlier this month.

Hon. Mr. Drea: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable member alleged he did not receive a copy of the compendium and I feel very strongly about that. I have checked and on April 5 a compendium was delivered to the office of his House leader.

Mr. Wrye: I will have to check with my House leader after I complete my speech and find out if it was. I certainly have not received it. If that is so, I apologize to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They say it was delivered to the office of his House leader.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, we have received no compendium. Unfortunately, my extensive staff of one very efficient young lady is not present tonight, but I will check first thing in the morning. If it is there, I will certainly deliver it to my colleague without delay, but I can assure the minister it has not been brought to my attention.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I just want to put it very plainly on the record that I said my information was that it was delivered to the office—and this is the third time—of the House leader.

Mr. Wrye: If he sent it by inter-office correspondence, my House leader may get that tomorrow morning.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What is wrong with those guys?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Windsor-Sandwich will continue his second reading debate.

Mr. Wrye: I want to remind the House of some of the comments of the minister's colleague the Minister of Education in her rather remark-

able admission of the problems we now have, the potential problems we have in terms of truancy. I would remind the House the amendments, and there were proposed amendments in both of the last two years—I certainly know there were some earlier last year to sections 29 and 30 of the Education Act—were amendments which were proposed but died on the order paper.

From the last word I had, I understand the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario, which in June of last year presented a brief containing its views to the Ministry of Education, has now once again been asked for another brief. I hope it will have this policy in place by next September.

This is against a backdrop of the fact that Ottawa had first planned to implement the Young Offenders Act on April 1, 1983, but delayed the matter to October 1, 1983, after appeals from the provinces, in particular this one. I was just rereading some of the minister's comments in estimates last year where he was pleading for more time. What he really wanted was more time to see if he could get some more bucks from Ottawa. He was the minister who made the plea in estimates last year.

The Minister of Education, in a really remarkable comment, accused Ottawa of having proclaimed the Young Offenders Act too soon. It was proclaimed two years after it passed the House and that was too soon. We would not want to rush into anything.

She said, "As you are probably aware, the Young Offenders Act, in spite of all the efforts of my colleagues, was dropped on us rather precipitously." Rather precipitously, after two years.

That means we have no truancy policy in place today. The minister has given the people of Ontario hope that everything is going to be all right. I just want to read into the record a brief comment she made—

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, just before my honourable friend begins reading into the record, I would like to read to you rule 32(c) on page 10 of our standing orders, "On the introduction of a government bill, a compendium of background information shall be delivered to the opposition critics."

Mr. Sweeney: Not the House leader.

Mr. Wrye: Or his office.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not suppose that requires any comment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is one last thing on this whole matter. There has been another allegation

that it was not filed with the House. There is a notation in votes and proceedings.

Mr. Nixon: The standing orders are quite clear.

Mr. Sweeney: The critic is still waiting for the compendium.

Hon. Mr. Drea: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Votes and Proceedings shows the compendium was filed in the House April 5.

Mr. Sweeney: The critic is still waiting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think it is my duty to introduce the critic of the Liberal Party to his House leader.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I think we can all agree there has been enough discussion about it.

Mr. Wrye: It really has been a very useful learning experience for the minister, for his poor staff. I see a number of ministers writing. I am sure they are taking notes so they can pass them on to their staff and to the official printer so they will know what they have to do.

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the member would return to second reading of Bill 28.

Mr. Wrye: I want to get back to the logic being used by the minister's colleague the Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities who says not to worry about the fact we do not have any power in terms of truancy these days because we forgot to do that as well. The Minister of Education, in justifying the fact we are without any policy or any regulation on truancy, made this rather remarkable comment, "Fortunately, there is not a very long school period from now until the end of June."

Mr. Sweeney: Because she does not know what we are going to do.

Mr. Wrye: She knows what she is going to do. She said: "I am just hoping we will not have any problems. We may have a loophole, we may have a gap at the moment"—that is putting it mildly—"so that any child who decides he is going to be a truant in spite of his parent's best efforts will take advantage of it."

All I can do is remind the government once again that this bill received royal assent July 7, 1982. I do not know what this government has been doing for the last year and nine months, but it was elected to govern and it would be really nice if it could get its act together long enough to put the matters in place.

Interjection.

Mr. Wrye: I did not want to say it, but my colleagues have made some comments about the

compendium again. It really would be nice if in this area, as in so many others, the government of the day would start to do what it is mandated to do and get down to governing. I suspect what is really at issue here is just how this government could slough off the bucks on Ottawa. That is really all this government is about; how much it can squeeze out of Ottawa.

It is a little more concerned with money than it is with people. Nowhere have I seen that demonstrated so obviously as in this piece of legislation.

There is one other reason we are here tonight discussing this piece of legislation, and that is the very embarrassing tug of war, or maybe we should call it power struggle, which has gone on for 17 or 18 months now between the Minister of Community and Social Services and his absent colleague the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk), who we hope is not pouting tonight because he did not win.

I was rereading the estimates today. For well over a year this party has asked, has demanded to be told, which ministry was to be put in charge of implementing this act. The minister will remember this came up from my colleague and predecessor as critic, the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). I noted the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) also offered a few thoughts during estimates last year, that maybe it would be a nice idea if we were told which the lead ministry would be. I guess we were told, in the fullness of time, three or four days after the proclamation of the new act.

8:20 p.m.

Only now do we and the service providers find out it is to be the Ministry of Community and Social Services, although I was reading in some of the notes that there are indications the Ministry of Correctional Services has been given a part of the action. It is going to handle the 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds when they come under the act next year.

I notice some legal scholars have indicated, among other things, that if we have two ministries handling the act and different treatments for those 12 to 15 years old as opposed to those 16 and 17 years old it may be unconstitutional; but we will see in the fullness of time.

The serious and very sad result is that the agencies and the workers in those agencies who are in charge of making this act work are simply not ready. I would like to quote the comments of just a couple of them, and I know the minister will be very interested to hear those comments.

Grant Lowery is the executive director of the Central Toronto Youth Services. I am sure he might have a little something to do with this. He said recently:

"We are simply not ready. The total system is not prepared. I see a lot of people scrambling, a lot of last-minute preparation; and while some people may be prepared for this at the provincial level, certainly we at the agency level do not know what is going on."

In case the minister thinks Mr. Lowery is all alone in his criticism of the foot-dragging that has accompanied the government, perhaps he would like to hear some of the comments of George Caldwell, who I am sure members know is the executive director of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. I suppose they have some small role in making this act work. Here is what Mr. Caldwell has to say, and again I am quoting:

"The sense I am getting is that there is a bit of unreality to it." Mr. Caldwell says the transition period will be "a chaotic one," and he adds: "There is a hunger for more information and more practical direction that has not come from any ministry as to what is going on. We have lived with a theoretical direction for years."

In short, while this government played its usual game of fed-bashing—and that is all you find: just one minister after another with his hand out, saying to Ottawa: "Please help me with lots of money. We do not know what we will do with it, but please help with lots of money"—the agencies on the front lines in Ontario waited for direction that, certainly until recently, has not come.

In talking about the role of this province with respect to the funding demands it has made of Ottawa, it is worth noting that two provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, have now reached agreement with Ottawa. The information I have is that agreement on funding with four other provinces is at hand and that full agreement should be reached fairly shortly. That will make six, and once again Ontario is on the verge of being 10th and last. That would not be surprising. The plain fact is that Ontario—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you going to come down there with me?

Mr. Elston: Are we invited?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure. I would love to see him there.

Mr. Wrye: Well, hang on a little bit. Maybe this spring or next spring we will be over there, the present minister will be over here and he can

watch. I will be here well after this minister and this government are gone.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Back to the debate, gentlemen.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Give him a challenge, Bill. They would not like it over on this side. Frank, you would not like it over on this side; you would not look as good.

Mr. Wrye: I hope he likes it, because he will get his chance pretty soon.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Windsor-Sandwich will speak on the bill, please.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, there was a bit of provocation from the other side.

The plain fact is that this government and this minister have had a long time to get ready for this legislation and have done absolutely nothing. Now apparently the young offenders and those who have to deal with them—the courts, the crown attorneys, the service providers—are going to have to pay for the lack of preparedness of this government. Fortunately some agencies, such as the police here in Metro, for example, have been able to get prepared on their own, and they are all set to deal with matters; but obviously a lot of others are not.

The minister sits there smiling. I remind him of what happened, and maybe he would like to chat with his friend the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), because last week we had a little problem with a couple of judges.

The Attorney General went to Brantford in early February. He made a speech. As usual, we got a speech from the Attorney General about the funding. It was the kind of speech we have had from the Attorney General, from his colleague the previous Provincial Secretary for Justice, now the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling), and from the minister's seatmate, the present Provincial Secretary for Justice. All of them have been worried about nothing else but funding: "Just give us our money, Ottawa. We will not tell you what we are going to do with it. Give us a lot of money so we can build some detention homes".

Perhaps it would have been a good idea if the Attorney General or some of the law officers of the crown had checked with the judiciary of this province. If he had checked, he might have been able to head off the problem that has occurred for the last seven days. As I understand it, the Attorney General is going to try to get a writ tomorrow. If that does not work, it may clog up the system a little more. That might have been a

more useful exercise for the Attorney General to have taken on.

One of the things we do not know, and about which we have still had no direction from this government in spite of this legislation, Bill 28, is what is going to happen on April 1, 1985. Will this minister be in charge of implementing the Young Offenders Act as it pertains to 16- and 17-year-olds? Will it be his colleague the Minister of Correctional Services? Will we have a two-tiered justice system? Will we have the 12- to 15-year-olds and the 16- and 17-year-olds separate? We simply do not know. This government comes out with policy only at the very last minute, if at all.

This matter is far too important for that. Attempts are being made through the Young Offenders Act, in the first instance, to replace a piece of legislation that could best be described as archaic and, alternatively, to bring in a piece of legislation that attempts to take into account the fact that this is 1984 and not 1908, which I think is the date when the Juvenile Delinquents Act first passed Parliament.

The commendable efforts of the federal government have been somewhat negated at the outset by the less than commendable efforts of this provincial government. Its efforts have been more of a self-serving nature than of a nature to begin to attack this problem and try to solve it.

I remember a comment by the Attorney General when discussing why he could not get more legal aid about a year or a year and a half ago. He said one of the problems was that he could not get more legal aid because the issue was not very politically sexy. I suppose the implementation of the Young Offenders Act in this province is one of the issues that is not politically sexy. But for those young people, their families and the province in general, and for the future those young people have, while it may not be politically sexy it is ultimately very important.

For our part, we simply do not believe we have enough answers. As a result, we do not believe we should support this legislation on second reading. We will withhold further comment as to what the government is proposing until we hear a little more in the wrapup from the minister. Perhaps later on in clause by clause in committee, in this place or in another place, we can hear a few more direct answers as to what is going on.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, our party will be opposing this legislation. We will be

requesting that the legislation go out to committee for hearings.

After all the notice provided by the federal government of its intentions, first many years ago when it moved to revise legislation affecting young offenders and then, again years ago, when it actually implemented the legislation and tried to come to grips with the various provinces of the country, it is a sad story that any government in this modern age would come to this Legislature as this one did last December with part of the information that is involved in this package of legislation.

It is not just this act. It is important to see this act in the context of other acts. The government comes to us today so ill prepared and fraught with dissension in its own ranks that it is going to perpetrate on the province an incredibly dangerous direction and package of services to young offenders.

It is a schizophrenic approach that reflects an inability of the cabinet and the government to come to grips with who should be in charge. It is a two-streamed approach which in my view threatens the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that has been passed in this country. It threatens the right to equal access to service by certain young people as opposed to other young people, as we are now seeing in this discriminatory legislation that is being brought forward.

This is all because this government was reluctant to get involved and did not like the young offender initiatives in the early days when they were brought forward. It tried to fight the move to 18 from the very beginning. This is also because every member of the Justice policy field and the Minister and Community and Social Services have been absolutely transfixed by costs and have not looked at all at what is going to be out there in terms of service.

Because these people have been so busy fighting the battles about how much money is actually going to be transferred to allow the accommodation of the changes in the legislation, they have ended up in a situation in which we are totally unprepared. We are bringing in legislation that is going to be not only poor legislation but also very dangerous legislation in terms of the kind of services we provide to young offenders in Ontario.

I believe the government is bringing it in this way for a third reason: it wishes the federal legislation to fail. How else can one explain defying the very principles involved in that federal legislation? How is it we end up in the position of actually having two different minis-

tries with different philosophies of treatment and service providing care to the different groups of young offenders that the Young Offenders Act supposedly wants to bring together?

The lack of planning has left us in the situation where at the last minute the Minister of Community and Social Services brings in legislation to cover people up to the age of 16. Months before, the Attorney General did work on provincial offences and the dangers involved in that and what is happening in our court systems at the moment.

Then they say to the Minister of Correctional Services, "You get to keep the 16- to 18-year-olds." The 16- to 18-year-olds do not pick up any of the extra rights that have been put into the Young Offenders Act for those who are under the age of 16. They are treated as adults. They are put in the adult stream.

I think there is a lot of evidence to the effect that they are already being discriminated against in the system in terms of sentencing practices and where they end up in the system. We are going to leave them there for a year to then go where? To come to Community and Social Services with that philosophy all integrated, to again have the two ministers somehow divide the two groups, 16 and under and of 16- and 17-year-olds? We have no idea. It is not here in the legislation. There is no direction. There was nothing in the compendium I received indirectly through my House leader.

Mr. Wrye: Why not directly?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have no idea why not directly. I am sure the minister knows who the critic is. I did get it through my House leader but, as I say, indirectly.

Mr. Boudria: Did I miss anything?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, but not a great deal.

We now have in the province police forces that are unprepared to deal with this. The critic for the Liberal Party said that maybe in Metro Toronto they are ready. I was talking to a social worker today who works in prevention. She said a police officer walked into her office today and asked: "What do I do with a kid under the age of 12 whom I find committing an offence? I do not know where to take him."

The member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) thinks the other parts of the province are unprepared for this. However, those out there on the front line who have supposedly become prepared for it are not prepared at all. They do not know what is going on. They have not been involved in the process—God, we in the Legislature have not been involved in the process. We do

not know what kind of negotiating has been going on between the two ministries. Parents do not know.

There are in this act some fundamental changes in the rights that are available to juveniles as far as due process is concerned. Some of the changes are good; some I have some difficulties with—and I will come to those in a minute—but they are there and they are different. Parents and people in Ontario generally have no idea of what the Young Offenders Act means federally. Neither do they know what our interpretation of it, as expressed in this legislation brought forward today, means to them. They just do not know, and because there are fundamental human rights involved in this I think that is a very serious matter.

I would like to talk a little bit about the dangers in the splitting of jurisdiction. The Ministry of Correctional Services deals with children who are 16 and 17 years old, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services deals with those who are 16 years and under. There are different processes and different rights for the two groups, because one is covered under young offenders legislation and the other is not. When this happens, we can run into some very serious problems as to where those people get streamed and the kinds of services they receive.

I am convinced there will be actions under the Charter of Rights. Under this legislation, a child of 15 who is involved in a criminal act gets streamed with young offenders in family court. He goes into some kind of a group home, for instance, at the age of 15 and a half, say. At 16 he may still be there because the judge, after six months, determines he should stay there. That child stays within the juvenile system, the family court prerogatives and the kinds of support systems that are in place, even though at that point he is over 16. However, a child at 16 years of age who has committed the same crime goes into the adult criminal court. This is a very different kind of streaming as regards the kinds of services that are available. I suggest that offends the Charter of Rights. I suggest that will be challenged and should be challenged.

I am thinking of what happens to children's aid societies. They are already a little reticent about dealing with the older juveniles of 16 years of age. They are concerned about their mandate and whether they should be involved. I suggest they will be making very sharp decisions in the next little while. They will be saying: "Children 16 years and over go to the criminal system. Corrections, you can look after that." A very

different kind of methodology will be used in dealing with those kids.

On the child welfare side of things, there is some flexibility at the moment. A child in trouble with the law but whose real problem is that he is in need of protection or in need of support can no longer be streamed into the social welfare field. That is going to cause some incredible distinctions between children whose ages vary by only months. It will create great problems as to how they are dealt with in the court system and in how they are redirected.

If I can go back to what we did on the Provincial Offences Act, perhaps I can make a point; I hope I will. Last December we supported a bill not realizing what was going to take place. Most of us in the House are not lawyers, I am happy to say. Some things have happened around provincial offences which are very frightening and which have a real impact on the Young Offenders Act.

8:40 p.m.

Under the Provincial Offences Statute Law Amendment Act that was brought in last December, a new process was developed for dealing with young people on provincial offences. These are not the major criminal offences. These are things such as liquor offences, traffic offences and that kind of thing. This new process is called a certificate of offence. Rather than an information being laid against a child and then going through the system that way, a certificate of offence is brought in. Essentially, that means the child has to go to court. That means a lot of parents end up going to court with that child.

I was told about a case just recently by somebody in the judicial system who said there are predictions that in Toronto there will be thousands of these kind of processes undertaken in the case of juveniles who in the past would normally have been dealt with by a warning or would have been moved into the child welfare system if there was a concern about their need of protection.

An example would be if a child was out driving his bike late at night without a light. The child who is caught in that case—I have North York examples if the members want them—is now given one of these certificates of offence and ends up going through the court system. This is clogging up the courts, according to people I know in the judicial system. It is causing all sorts of problems. We may have thought that was an innocent piece of legislation we were bringing

through and we not have realized the kind of dangers involved in that.

Let me just say the mess we are going to have in the judicial system with the Young Offenders Act is going to be very substantial. For instance, on the whole question of redirection of kids, one of the good things about the act federally is the idea that there should be more work done through community service orders and the kind of thing where kids pay the people who have been victimized by them. There is a lot of that kind of process involved.

At the same time, in the federal legislation there is also the notion that it is tied to that of responsibility—the child should take responsibility for his act. What many people fear we are going to end up with in the Young Offenders Act is more determinate sentencing, less diversion and more kids being incarcerated for this period of time. He will do his service and he will be responsible for that.

Unlike our old system, where somebody could be redirected before that ever took place and go off into community service or whatever, it is going to be much harder to stop the child from going into that system. Under this system a judge will now send that child for a predetermined length of time. After six months the judge may decide to have the case reviewed and after a year he must, but it is going to be much more defined. There is some real concern about the conflict of the philosophy there about what is a very positive notion of redirection into the community work and paying off with the notion of sentencing to incarceration of juveniles.

I am very concerned about that kind of problem. When one looks at the case of the Attorney General of this province who, although he knows there are well in excess of 100 programs around the province—probably 150—available to assist the courts in terms of other kinds of alternative means of dealing with juveniles that are out there right now, even though he knows they are out there, he says he is going officially to recognize two of them; that is all. That was a very direct—

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Three now. It has gone up to three; we are really moving. What is the message that is being given to judges? The message is they should not be listening to plans for redirection of that sort because they are not officially sanctioned. Instead, those children should be put into detention centres for a definite length of time and released only under the very strict terms of the Young Offenders Act.

I suggest that is going to cause us a hell of a problem. If we are worried about money, that is going to mean we are going to have more and more people going into detention homes. That means we are going to need more detention homes, even after we have been getting rid of those training schools, instead of having more redirection. That is a very unfortunate move that will be taking place.

Someone I was talking to a little earlier estimated that at the present time about 75 per cent of the cases are redirected to community service, various kinds of payments and that kind of thing. If that stops, if that seals up because the message of the Attorney General is that only three out of 150, or however many, of these programs are acceptable to him, then what does that mean in terms of the number of children who will be going into detention homes?

I think it means there will be an alarming number of increases, especially when one considers that for some juveniles at the moment there is already the philosophy among some judges that what they need is a short, sharp shock. That kind of notion and philosophy will get reinforced through this act as incarceration.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The member is talking about the enabling legislation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would suggest to the minister that even though it is in the enabling legislation—and that is the limitation in the enabling legislation—there is nothing, as I understand it, that would preclude a government in Ontario from putting in changes to the legislation to give other kinds of direction to or to redirect judges. I would be pleased to hear from the minister when he does his wrapup whether he does not feel that is possible.

A number of judges have said to me they would be in favour of some very explicit power being put in to redirect cases from the criminal system to child welfare, where they feel the case before them—whether it is a break and enter or whatever—is actually an acting out by a child who is in need of protection, whose family home is in such turmoil that the misdeed was part of an escape mechanism. That child is really only partially responsible for what is happening to him or her but really needs more support.

The judges would like to have in this legislation a very specific statement that they have the power to order that child from the criminal system of the Young Offenders Act into child welfare if they feel that is appropriate. I would like the minister to consider that.

I am very concerned about the 16- to 17-year-olds. I have been concerned for some time that the people in that age group in our society have fewer rights than the rest of us, certainly fewer rights than adults and in many cases, if we look at the legislation we are talking about bringing in for children in Ontario, fewer rights than children. They are in a no person's land. They are dangerously vulnerable at the very time at which they are going through some hard changes. If children are already having problems with the law, that is often exacerbated. Those are kids who need more protection, in my view, than those of other ages, given the difficulties of those growing years.

Last year I asked the Minister of Correctional Services whether or not he could give me some information about what is happening at present in our courts and in our correctional system with those 16- to 17-year-olds. I have had it said to me, on an anecdotal basis only by lawyers in the court system, that judges were being harder on the 17-year-olds than they were on adults and younger juveniles. The kinds of sentences being brought forward were much harsher and were counterproductive in the view of these lawyers.

This is from the compendium of information put out by the Attorney General when he brought in the amendments to the Provincial Courts Act and Unified Family Court Act in December. There is another section of laws that were brought in to prepare us for the Young Offenders Act, I would remind the members. According to current estimates—and I am quoting again from this backgrounder—there are approximately three times more 16-to-17-year-old offenders than 12-to-15-year-old offenders in Ontario.

8:50 p.m.

That is the Attorney General's position. I would just like to read into the record some of the information that came back to me from the Minister of Correctional Services. Note the change between 16-year-old and 17-year-old males.

The information given to me had to do with types of offence by length of sentence for those receiving provincial sentences during 1982-1983. There were 1,080 male 16-year-olds sentenced to some form of incarceration. On the other hand, there were 2,696 male 17-year-olds sentenced to a term of incarceration. That is an enormous increase—more than 100 per cent.

I looked at some of the sentences put out. I do not know the particular cases and I am not questioning the validity of the decisions made. I just want to talk about the enormity of some of

these sentences in terms of a child of that age, in terms of what time is like for somebody in that age group.

Of the 1,080 16-year-old males who were incarcerated, 442 were cases related to break and enter. The average incarceration was 141 days. I want the members to think about that. That is a very long time for somebody to be put in an institution. What kind of an institution was it?

I remember when the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and I went on a surprise visit to the Don Jail and saw young people there on remand. They were 16 and 17 years old. I talked to about 10 people who were lined up along the bars as we came along. The first person was a murderer who was up for the second time. He was 26 years of age. The next person was about 30. He was in for some serious crimes of violence with a weapon, aggravated assault. The next person was 17 years old. He was in on his first offence. Because he was unable to go bail, he was mixed in with those people on remand before he was ever sentenced.

We are saying there is a mean sentence of 141 days for break and enter. For serious, violent crimes, the sentence goes as high as 245 days. They may all be understandable, but I have a bit of difficulty with them. For theft, the sentence was 51 days in one of our jails or detention centres. I do not have it broken down in terms of where they went.

One can look at the enormous increase in the sentencing of 17-year-olds and think of them mixed in with some of those very hardened criminals. One can think of the options they are provided through the Ministry of Correctional Services versus what they would get through the Ministry of Community and Social Services at 12 to 15 years of age. One of the reasons there are fewer offenders now is the redirection into other kinds of programs under the family court system.

I am staggered by the fact that the average stay for 17-year-olds charged with break and enter was 175 days. Who are they with? What kind of situation are they in while they are waiting for transfer? Were they in the Toronto east end detention centre in my riding? Were they in the Don Jail? Where were they?

I worry very much that we are leaving those kids in that kind of situation today with that kind of tendency. Are we not reinforcing that? If we do not move now, even after all the time we have had to incorporate this older group with the other—and we have had this much time to adjust knowing this was coming—then the message we are sending out when we leave them in the

criminal system, when we leave them in the system of the Ministry of Correctional Services rather than under the Ministry of Community and Social Services, is that this government should continue to treat them this harshly. It should continue to put them in the kinds of places they have been. I think that is unfortunate.

I was also greatly surprised by the statistics involved in this. Although I knew fewer women were sentenced, I had no idea the difference was so staggering. Compare the 1,080 male 16-year-olds who were sentenced with just 80 female 16-year-olds. I do not know how many of those went before the courts, how many got more lenient situations or how many are better trained in our society not to respond as males seem to and get themselves into difficulties, but I find that a staggering difference in numbers.

Although there is more than a 100 per cent increase for 17-year-old girls to 195 who were incarcerated during the year 1982-83, that compares with 2,696 males. I remind the members of that. It is a phenomenal difference.

Maybe as we look at this legislation, we should look at some of the answers to the question of why women do not end up there, why they do not run into the same difficulties with the system as young men do, and perhaps look for some answers there rather than maintain the structures of the moment which have discriminated against 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds.

I want to raise three more items. One is the question of truancy that has been raised, which seems to be an oversight in the production of legislation at this time. I am trying to figure out what the policy of the government is on truancy, on whether a child who is a truant will ever find himself or herself part of the court system and end up in a detention centre someplace.

I am assured by some of the things the Minister of Education is saying. I see the Minister of Community and Social Services shaking his head. They do not see that it can happen. I would like to raise a scenario with the minister about how I can see that taking place currently, flag it for him and he may respond to it in his wrapup or he may decide that perhaps I have caught something on this that is a difficulty.

The situation would be one in which a child is brought before a family court judge because of truancy and is sent back to the school system. There is no incarceration or anything like that. There is no mandate for that, but it is considered a probationary move by that family court judge.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You cannot be brought before a judge for that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: From speaking to some people in the court system in the last hour and a half, my understanding is that they see it as quite possible a child could end up before a judge because of consistent truancy. It may be a family welfare matter or whatever. The judge would say the child should go back to school, but the child continues to be a truant.

At that point the child would be in contempt or in breach of the probation of that judge who has said, "You should be back in the school system," and therefore could end up going through the process of ending up in a detention home, because the initial cause for breaching that probation was forgotten. It was only truancy, but because it came before a judge, it was seen to be breaking a probationary agreement.

That is the argument that has been made to me and I would like to raise it as a concern. I am no lawyer in these matters, but this has been presented to me by people in the legal profession.

Mr. Nixon: Never apologize for not being a lawyer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is a good point.

The other thing I want to raise with the minister is a concern I have had since it was raised in consultations we had as a committee on the Child and Family Services Act. It is the whole question of what is a place of safety.

I am talking here especially about what happens now to a child under the age of 12 who is found by a police officer to be in breach of the law. The police officer has to decide what to do with that child while the process is undergone to look after the child and make sure he is not in need of protection, etc.

Provincially, the act says the police officer may take the child to a place of safety. A place of safety would be the child's home, a foster home or a group home. What it cannot be is what is covered under subsection 24(1) of the federal act, which is the definition of "secure custody." That is the one place that child may not be taken.

9 p.m.

Under that definition, it says, "'Secure custody' means custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province for the secure containment or restraint of young persons, and includes a place or facility within a class of such places or facilities so designated."

Mr. Nixon: Is that a jail?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not think it is a police station. I think a child under the age of 12 could be taken by a police officer to a police station and kept there for as long as 12 hours under this act, as that being a place of safety, presuming they tried to go to the child's home before and nobody was at home.

If that is the case, a police station could actually be considered a place of safety under the act. Again, I will read out the definition of secure custody under subsection 24(1) to the minister, in case he did not hear it. That does not state "a police station." It is not in my view so designated and therefore it would be theoretically possible for a child to be taken there. That is something none of us would want to see. I do not think a police station is any place for a child of 12 to be kept for up to 12 hours before being sent back to his or her family for care.

I want to be absolutely sure that could mean there is no observation and detention centre left out of that definition. I think it is ironic when we are dealing with the Children's Act, we are dealing with this problem of what we do with the kids under 12, who are not now going to be subject to the law as they were in the past over the age of seven. What do we do with them after we return them?

The proposal under the Children's Act was to find them in need of protection and move that whole child welfare system into place to assist those kids who had serious problems at 12 years of age.

It is ironic that is the case. At the moment, a kid 12 years of age and older cannot be brought into the child welfare system. That is a terrible irony in a sense. I would rather see the option. I go back again to the notion that the option should be for judges to move the child back into the child welfare system to be dealt with rather than put under the punitive or criminal system.

I want to conclude with two other things; one is the judges. I presume from what Judge Steinberg in Hamilton was saying some time ago that some judges recently interpreted what we have done, or what the act is doing federally and our response to it, as provincial jurisdictions creating a court without appointing judges to it specifically. The distinction there is one which says, and some of them are saying, because they are not officially appointed to a youth court, in other words that court has not been designated youth, they will not hear cases.

I gather part of the reason for this is their opinion that a judge cannot be appointed for a defined length of time. What we are doing under

this act is saying, "Until next April, a court is being established to deal with this particular age group and that is the youth court in the provincial family court system." Those judges will say, "We are not appointed to it directly, but if you appoint us to it directly, you cannot designate that the appointment ends after a year." While you cannot put that definitive length of time on a tenure on the judges in that kind of position and therefore—

Mr. Nixon: Is that a provision of the charter?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not exactly sure. Maybe some of the legal beagles who told me that can explain why it is the case. I am not sure it is, but it has been brought to my attention that is a concern of some of these judges who are now raising this matter.

It is tied up with the matter of them not wanting to involve themselves in the two-tiered system at the moment. They find a dangerous kind of distinction is being made between the 16- and 17-year-olds and the others. They do not understand how they can involve themselves in a process for a year while they have the two-headed monster of the Ministry of Correctional Services on one side dealing with one group and the Ministry of Community and Social Services dealing with the others.

Mr. Nixon: I bet we could pass an act that would regularize it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be a very important thing if we had legislation here that would make it more regularized, as the member said.

In conclusion, this party is opposing this legislation because we see it as a badly-thought-out response to what is a long-term provision, a long-term plan to extend the age of young offenders to 18 for all of Canada, and we are unprepared for it; because in view of the fact we are unprepared for this move, we are setting up a two-tier system which offends or should offend our notion of the charter and of the right to equal service without discrimination with respect to age; and because the kinds of treatment that various groups of kids will be receiving will be so very different.

I think of the difficulty of somebody who is involved in a children's mental health centre today deciding what he is going to do with a 16-year-old, whom he would normally handle, who has a behaviour modification problem but is in trouble with the law. Is he going to bring that child into the Community and Social Services system under the children's mental health centres? Or is he going to say: "No, this child should

be in Corrections. The child is having problems with the law. Go the Corrections route”?

If that is the case, we are going to see a very different situation for the 15-year-old, who will go automatically to the children's mental health centre, will receive treatment and will have a right to that treatment, and the 16-year-old who is perhaps involved in the same crime and is diagnosed with the same mental health problem but ends up going into the correctional system without any right to treatment, without any guarantee of treatment in that system. That should offend all of us.

The politics of how this has come about are opportunistic and the worst example of shoddy planning that I have seen in some time in this Legislature. They are jeopardizing the assistance and the proper kind of support to young people who are in some ways in the greatest need of our assistance if we are ever going to break some of the cyclical patterns of who goes into our correctional system.

I would suggest we should have seen one minister in charge of this. My preference would have been Community and Social Services so we would have that kind of model brought forward, and there should be a statement that this is where we are going with the 16- to 18-year-olds. There should be some provisions right now as to how we are going to deal with them if we are not capable of dealing with them in totality. We should not have been left in the hotchpotch we have now, which is offensive to me and to others because of its attack on human rights and certainly with respect to a two-tier system with two different standards of care.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, so often when we are dealing with legislation of this nature we tend to forget what it is all about or who it is all about, who it is we are supposed to be serving.

I want to draw the Legislature's attention to the definition on page 2 of the act. It says:

“(i) ‘young person’ means a person who is, or, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, appears to be,

“(i) 12 years of age, or more, but

“(ii) under 16 years of age,

“and includes a person 16 years of age or more charged with having committed an offence while he or she was 12 years of age or more but under 16 years of age.”

In other words, for the most part we are talking of children between the ages of 12 and 16.

It is true there is a reference in this act to police apprehension of children under the age of 12; I am aware of that. We are all well aware of the

fact that the Young Offenders Act, and the title of this refers to the implementation of that act, will also deal with children, and they are still children, who are 16 and 17. But that does not take effect, as the minister well knows and has drawn to our attention, until a year from now, in April 1985.

9:10 p.m.

So for all practical purposes the subject of the debate tonight is children between the ages of 12 and 16. I wanted to stress this so we will not forget who we are serving, will not forget why we are debating this act.

It is not a case of a jurisdictional dispute between the two levels of government; that is not the issue. It is not a case of dollars and where they come from and where they go; that is not the issue. It is not a case of a dispute between the members of the government party and the members of the opposition benches over here; that is not the real issue. The issue is how we serve children aged 12 to 16 in Ontario who, for numerous reasons, find themselves in conflict with the law of Ontario and the law of Canada. That is the issue.

When I think of that I have to say this is a sad day, because there was so much promise two years ago when the Young Offenders Act was passed in Ottawa, and passed, I may remind the members, unanimously. All three political parties in Ottawa two years ago unanimously agreed with the principle and the spirit of the Young Offenders Act.

Unfortunately, in Ontario during those two years the spirit and the principle of the act seem to have been forgotten. The only thing that seems to have mattered is the jurisdiction, the dollars, the squabbling and the disputes; and during those two years the children of this province between the ages of 12 and 16 also seem to have been forgotten.

That is why it is a sad day and that is why the critic for our party has already announced clearly that we are not supporting this legislation. It is not because we disagree with the spirit and the principle of the Young Offenders Act; we agree and we support the unanimous support of the federal House of Commons. It is the way this act has been dealt with over the last two years; it is the way the act and the implementation of the act are continuing to be dealt with in this province. That is what we disagree with and that is the point we are trying to make.

Mr. Speaker, I will try to bring a few points to your attention to indicate why we feel so strongly about this. Just in the last couple of months in

most jurisdictions in Ontario—the member for Scarborough West has already illustrated this point—even here within the confines of Metro Toronto, where surely they have far more services available than anywhere else in the province, police and judges still were not sure what they were going to be doing; they still were not sure what their part was going to be; they still were not sure how they were going to deal with this act and what was going to be expected of them. The two members of our society who had to deal with it up front on the front lines were still not sure how they would handle it.

I will make some specific references to this. It is really sad that the children of Ontario are being made the pawns of the small-mindedness of this government.

Let me step aside for a second. I want to make this very clear. I am not aiming any barbs at this minister. I am not saying this minister is responsible for some of the concerns we are expressing, and I say this because even this minister himself did not know he was going to be responsible for this legislation a very short time ago. What I want to make very clear is that I am holding the government of Ontario responsible, the whole government. I want only to make the point that the particular minister who has now found himself responsible for this act cannot be the only one to blame.

What concerns me is that the children of this province who are going to be caught by this legislation, children who should have been helped by the legislation but who are going to be caught by it as it is currently drafted and, as we understand at the present time it is going to be administered, until we hear otherwise, those children have enough problems already.

By the very nature of the fact they are in trouble with the law and with the justice system of this province, they already have enough problems. The whole purpose of the legislation we pass here should be to ameliorate those problems and help them with those problems, not to make them more difficult. It is a tragedy that the vindictiveness—and that is about all I can call it—of this government is leading to the furthering of those problems.

One thing the members of this party cannot tolerate and will not support is that the battles between various levels of government will be fought on the backs of the children of this province. That is what is happening. That is why we are so angry. That is why we are so frustrated by this legislation and the way it has been dealt with by this government. It is clearly being

fought on the backs of the children of this province.

Two years; that is what we have had. That is the damnable part about this. For two whole years the government of Ontario knew this legislation had to be implemented. Yet for two years all it did was bicker, argue, fight and dispute with another level of government. The children of this province are the ones who will have to pay for it.

It is my understanding, and I stand to be corrected by the minister if I am wrong, that as of March 1 this government still had not decided which minister and which ministry was going to be in charge of this legislation. That is nothing short of a scandal.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The member is incorrect. The member wanted to be corrected. He is incorrect.

Mr. Sweeney: What is the date?

Mr. Van Horne: February 28.

Mr. Sweeney: I apologize then. I am three days out.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, he wanted to be corrected. It was many weeks before that.

Mr. Sweeney: If it was, it was the best-kept secret in Ontario.

As of July 1, 1983, fully one year after the federal legislation received royal assent—not just passed in the House of Commons, but received royal assent—a letter was sent to the Premier (Mr. Davis) by the following groups of people: the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, Central Toronto Youth Services, Huntley Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Anglican House and the Criminal Lawyers Association. On July 1, 1983, those organizations, all involved with helping children, asked the Premier to tell them what Ontario was going to do. As of February 15, 1984, they had not received a reply.

The same groups sent a second letter: the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, Central Toronto Youth Services, Huntley Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Anglican House and the Criminal Lawyers Association. As of February 15, they sent a second letter asking the same questions.

Interjection.

Mr. Sweeney: No, to the Premier, the leader, the first minister of the government of Ontario. All we can say is, if he does not know, who the blazes over there does know.

They still have not received a reply. That is a scandal. I do not know what other word to use. There is stronger language but it would be

unparliamentary. I am getting the eye of the Clerk to remind me it would be so.

9:20 p.m.

I indicated the judges and the police were not sure what they were going to do. As of the end of March of this year, we still had family court judges who were being converted to youth court judges, still not sure—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I caution the member that the word “scandal” might be a little strong within the parliamentary context we are now discussing this subject.

Mr. Sweeney: If the Speaker has a better word, I will gladly consider it, but I really cannot think of—

The Acting Speaker: I ask the member to remove that word and indicate there may be other ways of—

Mr. Sweeney: All right. It is a political disgrace then. Would that be better?

Interjections.

Mr. Sweeney: It is a political, social and inhuman disgrace, if that makes the Speaker feel a little better.

The family court judges of this province who are going to deal with this act, who are going to become youth court judges, were getting a cram session as of the end of March as to what their role was going to be. That was only days before this legislation was brought before the House. Are we to believe the judges who are going to have to administer this legislation are only given days’ notice in advance as to their role?

Sergeant George Davies, a trainer for the Metropolitan Toronto Police with respect to this act and who is described as one who supports it and all it stands for, was asked, “What lawyers’ list is the police going to use when it advises the young offenders that they have the right to call a lawyer?” He said, “I guess it is going to be from legal aid.”

As of very recently, and again I stand to be corrected by the Speaker, there has been no agreement between the Attorney General and the legal aid society that this will be done. We still do not know. If the minister knows, I will be quite happy to hear him tell us. The judges get a cram course at the end of March, the police do not even know where the lawyers are going to come from and then we want to know whether people are ready.

The real irony of this legislation is it was stressed over and over again—as anyone can see from reading the record from the House of Commons—that it is going to make the young

offenders of this province more responsible for their own actions; it is going to make them grow up a little bit. Yet what kind of an example is this government giving to them? Its actions over the last two years, and even over the last couple of months, have been far from responsible.

The critic of our party has made it very clear that the major battle between the two levels of government has been over dollars. Let us take a look at the kinds of dollars that have been offered to this government. First, the federal government has offered a straight 50:50 split for all costs except for the construction of any jails; that is the one exception. It has offered \$25 million for startup costs, \$20 million for programming costs and \$100 million for the Canada assistance plan. That is a lot of money in anyone’s language.

What has all the dispute been about? The previous minister who thought he was going to have to carry this legislation said we would need millions of dollars to build new jails and facilities. Yet right within the Young Offenders Act, as my colleague the critic has indicated already, there are 11 alternatives. To the best of our knowledge, those 11 alternatives have not been seriously considered by this government. Otherwise, it would not be so up in the air about building more jails.

I find that ironic too, because one of the points the Justice ministries of this government have made over and over again is that jails do not work for adult offenders. The fact that we have 70 per cent repeaters in most of our jails of this province is clear evidence that they do not work for adult offenders.

Surely when we are starting down a whole new line in terms of dealing with young people in this province, we should not be starting down the same line of putting them in more jails. We are developing alternatives for adult offenders. We have put community resource centres into place in the province.

It is my understanding that when the minister now responsible for this legislation was the Minister of Correctional Services, he was very supportive of the community resource centres. Therefore, we would expect he would be supportive of alternative forms of treatment for young offenders as well.

We are on record as saying we oppose this legislation. We want a great deal more input into it than we have had. We oppose it because the principle and the spirit of the legislation as espoused in the House of Commons are not being adhered to by this government. The spirit and the principle of that federal legislation are something

we support. When we see that, we will support it—but not until.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to take part in this second reading debate. I guess the minister is starting to twig to the fact that we in opposition are somewhat incensed and cheesed off about this statute. We do not intend to support it on second reading, and we want it to go out to committee.

I hope the minister understands, if he does not understand now, why people are so upset about the legislation in front of us. The problem is very simple. We do not have answers to a whole host of questions that have been on the plate of this government for a long time. It has not been just two years that these questions have been before the Ontario government but for almost a quarter of a century. Efforts were begun to rewrite the Juvenile Delinquents Act in the 1960s. The first draft of a successor act was done in 1961, the second draft in 1970 and the third draft in 1977.

The bill promulgated by the federal government at the beginning of this month has been in the works for five or six years. This government has had in front of it the questions that this radical new system poses for all of us for about five or six years. Yet here we are, weeks after the bill has been finally proclaimed into law by the Parliament of Canada, and this government is still flying by the seat of its pants.

It comes into the Legislature on April 2, the day after the bill is proclaimed, and announces to an astounded opposition that it has not been able to settle the fundamental question of which ministry is going to be responsible for the implementation of the Young Offenders Act.

It has been no secret that the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Correctional Services have been fighting each other for the honour to be the lead ministry. They have been fighting over turf and territory since 1981, if not before then. I have certainly been aware of the fight since 1981.

We know the Provincial Secretariat for Justice and the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development have been involved in a vain attempt to bring some degree of rational co-ordination to the government's planning and policy development operations. We know the Attorney General has tried desperately to knock heads together.

Yet on April 2 the Provincial Secretary for Justice came into the Legislature and said: "We really have not made up our minds. We are going to have a two-tier system. The Ministry of Community and Social Services will handle children up to the age of 16, and the Ministry of

Correctional Services will handle children between the ages of 16 and 18."

Thanks for nothing. This question has been in front of the government, as I said, for at least five years and it still has not sorted it out. It has not even sorted out the basic administrative structure of a new system of justice for young people in this province. It has made a decision not to make a decision because it could not decide.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services will keep juvenile corrections, which it has had since 1977, and the Ministry of Correctional Services will keep responsibility for children between the ages of 16 and 18, which it has had since 1977, because that was the path of least resistance. The government avoided the necessity of implementing the act by simply copping a plea; it did not make a decision.

9:25 p.m.

That is only the beginning of a whole battery of decisions, questions and policy issues that have not been decided. The minister comes in here, in a sense with a gun to our heads, saying: "Look, the federal Parliament has proclaimed the law. Oh God, we are surprised; we are horrified; we are shocked and appalled. We have to have this legislation passed right away. Never mind asking all these questions."

I am sorry, I am not an expert. I am a social worker who has worked in a variety of settings. I confess to not knowing very much about correctional services; I never have and I suspect I never will, but I know there are a number of questions that have to be answered. If the minister thinks he is going to get this legislation through this House without providing answers to those questions, he is wrong. It is as simple as that.

When the minister can answer our questions, he will have his legislation. It is a very simple process in here: the minister is accountable to this assembly for what he does. In case he does not like that, he is accountable to the Legislative Assembly and he has to satisfy us that he knows, even remotely, what he is doing. So far, I have to tell him we suspect the opposite.

I have never seen such sheer incompetence in the introduction of a major piece of legislation as the incompetence surrounding the introduction of this act to implement the Young Offenders Act and all the nonsense that has led up to it.

The minister has come into the House tonight without even deigning to participate in the second reading debate.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not true.

Mr. McClellan: The debate started at eight o'clock this evening. The minister got up and moved second reading of the bill, then sat down. That is my recollection of what happened this evening.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will speak at the end and the member will not like it. He probably will not even be here to hear it.

Mr. McClellan: I am always here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: He will pull his usual stunt and run.

Mr. McClellan: The minister is talking to the wrong member. For my sins I am always here, and I will be here when the minister deigns to address the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. When he does that, I hope the minister will answer some of the questions.

I have the consultation paper produced by the ministry in November 1981. I am not going to go through it. It has 50 pages of questions; 50 pages of thorny and complex problems that have to be solved before Ontario can say it is ready to implement the Young Offenders Act.

It is a good thing Ontario put out the consultation paper in November 1981. The members will recall that in that month, the ministry had not been dismantled by the incumbent minister. It still had the capacity to produce an intelligent consultation paper that set out clearly and precisely the policy issues to be addressed by the government, by the service community and by us as legislators.

As we stand here in April 1984, I doubt very much whether the ministry any longer has the capacity to produce a consultation paper of this quality, having endured the incumbent minister in the intervening three and a half years. Most of the people who had the capacity to produce this kind of document have been driven out of the ministry.

Be that as it may, the questions raised in this document cry out for answers. Where is the green paper, the white paper, the blue paper or whatever? Where is the paper that sets out the answers to all the questions that were posed in November 1981? Where is it? Did I miss it? Was it sent to somebody else's office? I do not think so, because the questions have not been answered.

The minister is still as much in the dark in April 1984 as he was in November 1981, and he does not know the answers to all these questions. He has played a cute kind of game of chicken with the federal government, and the federal government has called his bluff.

Here we are, two and a half weeks after the bluff was called, with legislation, all the policy questions undecided and the basic administrative apparatus as confused and incoherent as it was four years ago.

I do not intend to take the time of the House to go through a 50-page document and ask the minister to respond to each of the policy options that are set out in here. That would be quite intolerable. But when the bill goes to committee we will do precisely that. We will have to ask the minister to respond to each of the questions which he himself put to us in November 1981, and he will have to give us answers. I do not think the minister has the answers now.

Mr. Nixon: What is that document called?

Mr. McClellan: It is called Implementing Bill C-61, the Young Offenders Act—An Ontario Consultation Paper. It was put out by the interministry implementation project in November 1981.

For those who are not connoisseurs of this kind of nonsense, this was the interministry committee that was charged by the cabinet with the task of producing Ontario's response to the Young Offenders Act and coming up with ways and means to implement it. Their first step was to raise all the questions involved, all the thorny, complex difficult problems—and they are difficult and complex problems—and to come up with solutions to each. They did a good job of setting out the questions, but since then there has been nothing but a deafening silence with respect to the answers.

I will run quickly through a couple of major concerns, leaving aside all the nitty-gritty problems that are set out in the implementation report of November 1981. Some of these have been touched on very well by other speakers, but I just want to run through them.

First, what is going to be the role of the police? What is the new role of the police in operational terms? What kind of preplanning has taken place with all the police organizations across the province? What kinds of organizational arrangements and management systems arrangements have been made with the police organizations across this province as they accept the challenge of a whole new set of roles and responsibilities under the Young Offenders Act?

The police are now, in a unique kind of way, the front-line workers in our child welfare system. This is a profound change. What kind of training has been made available to our police officers? What kind of supports have been built into police forces as far as beefed-up youth

bureaus are concerned? I want the answers to those questions.

I want to know what the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of the Solicitor General have been doing with our police organizations across this province to get them ready for their new roles and responsibilities. What are the budget implications? What are the guidelines? What are the criteria? We do not know. None of this has been provided to anybody—not to the police force, not to the social agencies, not to us. We are not asking a lot. We are asking for an operational plan, and I do not think it is there. We will find out when we get to committee.

Second, what will be the impact on the child welfare system? What is their state of readiness? What are their new roles and responsibilities? What are the financial implications? What are the organizational implications?

Surely it would have made sense for the ministry to issue some kind of comprehensive document that would answer these obvious questions. These are not esoteric questions that only come to the minds of experts. These are simple, commonsense questions. What are the answers? What is the ministry's position, or does it have one? I suspect not.

9:40 p.m.

Third, what about the courts? We discovered in December 1983 who and where the responsibilities for the Young Offenders Act will lie with respect to the court. That was only about two and a half months ago.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) raised this issue very clearly. What kind of training programs have been laid on for the judges? What will be the impact on the courts? What can we expect in terms of either increased or decreased demand on the courts? After five years we have had no answers. With regard to sentencing procedures or sentencing practices, again we have had no information at all from the minister. He no longer seems even to be listening. We have had no information at all from the minister with respect to this critical issue.

Finally, in my own little litany of obvious concerns, there is the question of the detention and custody systems that will have to be set up. We have had concerns expressed formally by the government of Ontario that it will require 20 new maximum security centres for young offenders by 1985. The government has said this. Is it still the same situation? Has the situation changed? What are the requirements? We are entitled to these answers.

Even as a matter of simple courtesy, the minister should have issued the members of this assembly this basic information. After alarms and excursions over the course of the last three years, in which the government and various spokespersons said we would require up to 20 new maximum security centres for young offenders by 1985, what does the province really need? What are the capital requirements?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Bluewater Centre.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, we will come to that. Let us come to it now. It is quite obvious one of the ways the government is making room for young offenders is by closing mental retardation centres.

Mr. Riddell: Is the minister going to call the member stupid? Is he going to say it is the most stupid remark he has ever heard said in the House?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister knows he had an engineer in Bluewater before he even announced the closing. He knows it is right.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. This is the only advanced planning that has actually been done with respect to the Young Offenders Act. The minister has decided to make room for the young offenders at the expense of developmentally handicapped people. He has thrown the entire program for the developmentally handicapped into a cocked hat in order to accommodate young offenders.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We approved the Williston report.

Mr. McClellan: The minister knows exactly what my position is on the Williston report and on the aims and ideals of deinstitutionalization. I have nothing but contempt for this government for the way it has distorted those aims and ideals and botched up the network of programs for the developmentally handicapped in this province since the present incumbent took office. It is simply shoddy.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The member's speech is—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Bellwoods has the floor.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you. As I say, we know exactly what kind of planning has taken place with respect to the detention and custody systems. With the exception of what has been done in the mental retardation centres, which I am sure other members will speak about at length, there has been no policy, no planning and no interministerial co-ordination.

We have now the reintroduction, as a matter of policy, of a two-tier system. There will be one level of service with respect to detention and custody systems for children up to the age of 16. There will be a second class of service—I mean second class literally—for children between the ages of 16 and 18. There will be two separate bureaucracies administering two separate programs with two sets of criteria. It is going to be wasteful, it is silly and it will mean the children will fall between the stools.

What will happen to the 16- and 17-year-olds is exactly what happens to 16- and 17-year-olds in the mental health system. They will get short shrift. They will be put into dangerous and harmful settings with dangerous adult criminals. They will not get the service they need and they will not get the treatment they need.

Children who are approaching their 16th birthday will be shunted off into limbo in order that they can be routed into the second-class system under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Correctional Services instead of getting the first-class service that will be available under the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

I have seen this happen before. I see it happening now in the Ministry of Community and Social Services and in the Ministry of Health. We will see it perpetuated in spades under the two-tier system. A two-tier system is a two-class system, and the second class will be for the older young offenders.

The government has accomplished exactly nothing by failing to address the basic territorial question.

This leads me, since we are talking about custody and detention, to turn back to the 1981 report for a second. On page 18—and this is the only one specific I want to deal with—the report says, “It is anticipated that a relatively broad class of facilities and programs would be designated as places of custody and that the facilities would be listed in schedules.”

Where is the list? Where is the list of designated facilities? Again, have I missed something? Has something wafted by me on a cloud? Has some messenger brought the report to the wrong office? Has the schedule been shredded before it even got to us? Where is the list of the “relatively broad class of facilities and programs...designated as places of custody”?

No minister in his right mind would ask this Legislature to pass a piece of legislation without giving us that list and that schedule. I assume it is a simple oversight and that when the bill gets to

committee we will have the list of facilities and programs set out in the schedule.

We have been through a major process of legislative reform before in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. If you can believe it, Mr. Speaker, all the kinds of questions I am raising here tonight were provided to us by the ministry before we ever got to the second reading stage.

We rewrote the Child Welfare Act. We rewrote all the children's residential statutes. We were given extensive discussion papers and extensive documentation. We had operational plans set out before us. It was entirely clear what the ministry had in mind before it asked this Legislature to pass bills into law. They consulted widely in the service community, with the police and with the courts. Everybody had a clear understanding of what was in front of him and what was coming.

How different that process is from the kind of nonsense, the kind of arrogant disdain we are seeing today, with the Legislature being treated as a bunch of nobodies who should not even be given basic information and the service agencies being regarded by this minister as though they were somehow the enemy who has to be attacked, fended off, criticized in public and slanged and slammed in the press.

What a performance it has been. I hope the government is proud of that kind of confrontational nonsense, especially when it was preceded by such a constructive and useful legislative and reform exercise. They are as different as night and day.

9:50 p.m.

We will get a chance to look at these things when the bill goes to committee. Since the Minister of Education is here, I just want to end by dealing with the issue of truancy. I am sure she was misquoted in the press the other day because she said the government had not had time to develop its policy on truancy.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was a misquote, very definitely.

Mr. McClellan: Oh, what did the minister say?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said the policy is in place and the legislation will be following.

Mr. McClellan: Oh, good. I guess the minister had forgotten that her ministry had been engaged in a policy development exercise since 1982 and she just blurted out her statement to the press, which always gets these things wrong. Why do they always misquote that minister? I

have never been misquoted in my life, but this minister is always misquoted.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I spent 20 minutes on the telephone explaining the policy to that reporter and was therefore somewhat astonished to find the headline that we did not have a policy.

Mr. McClellan: What a silly-billy that reporter must be—after 20 minutes of detailed explanation to report that this government had not had time since 1982 to develop a policy.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wrye: It is only two months until June.

Mr. McClellan: I want to remind the minister that in 1982 the Ministry of Education issued a policy proposal that outlined three options for dealing with truancy under the Young Offenders Act. The first of those was to retain habitual absence as a provincial offence and let the courts deal with it. The second was to resolve the non attendance problems within the educational system. The third was to refer habitually absent children to the children's aid society where the situation would be dealt with through the child welfare system.

In 1982 the Ministry of Education had already designated the first of these as its preferred option. That is to say, it wanted habitual absence to remain a statutory offence which would be dealt with in the courts. That was the policy of the Ministry of Education in 1982. I have no clue what it is today because the Minister of Education told the press the other day there was no policy because they had not had time to think up one.

The Minister of Community and Social Services said sotto voce tonight the option of leaving habitual absence as a statutory offence to be dealt with by the courts—if I understood his gesticulations correctly—was not going to be the government's policy with respect to truancy. Fine. What on earth is the policy?

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have the floor. He had an opportunity to speak on second reading debate and he chose not to exercise it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Stop misquoting me.

Mr. McClellan: He cannot jump up like a jack-in-the-box, every time—

Hon. Mr. Drea: The member should try to use his limited faculties to quote me correctly.

Mr. McClellan: It is so hard to quote this minister because he has not said anything and his

ministry has not provided us with any information. The policy questions I am outlining with respect to truancy have not been answered and they are a matter of tremendous concern. Everybody recognizes habitual absence from school as a serious social problem that has to be dealt with. This government has been diddling around since 1982. The minister says: "Oh, gosh, we have not had time to think up a policy."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This is not true.

Mr. McClellan: The minister says it is not true. Then what is the situation? The rotation, if I am not mistaken, moves to the Conservative Party. The Minister of Education will have an opportunity to rise in her place.

Interjection.

Mr. McClellan: What does that mean? Is the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development trying to swim?

Mr. Martel: Can we have some information? That is what we need.

Mr. McClellan: The Minister of Education has the opportunity to rise in her place and tell us what her policy is.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Bellwoods is on the debate on second reading. Other members will please refrain from all this.

Mr. Martel: It is the interjections.

Mr. McClellan: He is gesticulating at me in a very dangerous manner.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister has been muzzling the Minister of Education.

Mr. McClellan: The minister is trying to stifle freedom of information. He is trying to stifle my contribution to the debate. I am intimidated and I am going to terminate my remarks at this point because I am so terrified.

But I want the Minister of Education to take the opportunity of having 35 minutes to get up and tell us what the policy of the government of Ontario is with respect to truancy. When the Minister of Community and Social Services comes down off his high horse and participates in the debate, perhaps he will tell us when and in what manner we are going to have answers to all the questions that were set out so lucidly in his ministry's document of 1981 and that have been raised so eloquently by all the members who have participated in the debate this evening.

The Deputy Speaker: Does any other honourable member—

Mr. McClellan: Let the record show the Minister of Education is sitting fast and stuck to her seat.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Member, take your seat.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what we are debating.

An hon. member: Yes, we are.

Interjections.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I really did not intend to participate in this debate until I put a question to the minister this afternoon and received the kind of response I did, which, I can assure the members, did not do the minister one iota of good.

The introduction of Bill 28 and what has led up to it is yet another government fiasco. I do not think I can word my condemnation of the minister and the government of which he is a part any better than was done by a completely unbiased author in an article that appeared in *Toronto Life* entitled "Political Delinquency."

This article did not come from a politician; it came from a person who is concerned about the Young Offenders Act and the procrastination of this government in implementing the act. I just want to quote a little from this article written by John Gault.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Read the whole thing.

Mr. Riddell: I would like to because it is really a good article, but I am going to quote only part of it:

"After more than 20 years of study and false starts, the Young Offenders Act was passed unanimously by the House of Commons and received royal assent on July 7, 1982."

That was July 7, 1982. Here we are in April 1984, and this government is scrambling around trying, first of all, to find accommodation for young offenders before it ever decides to bring the Young Offenders Act into the Ontario Legislature. I will have more to say about that later.

To continue: "It was supposed to come into effect April 1, 1983, but the provinces, with the possible exception of Quebec, weren't ready for it. Then October 1 became the proclamation date, but the provinces still weren't ready. And on February 28 this year most of the provinces, including Ontario, were pushing Solicitor General Robert Kaplan for yet another extension. This time he said no. Which meant that there was exactly one month available to train thousands of people—judges, lawyers, child welfare workers, probation officers, police officers and so on—in a whole new, very complex body of law.

"In fairness, as of March 1 some of these people had already received instruction and

guidance; also in fairness, some will be less affected by the changes than others and will be able to carry on business pretty much as usual. But as of March 1, after a dozen lengthy conversations with officials in various ministries, youth service organizations, legal aid services and the police, I could only expect the worst.

"The simple fact is that, less than a month before the Young Offenders Act was to become law, there was a shocking lack of preparedness in this province. Queen's Park had not even established which ministry was going to be given overall responsibility for implementation."

I might just say that when the so-called five-year plan for the phase-out of six centres for the developmentally handicapped was leaked, to use the minister's words, I was probably one of the first members to get on the telephone and ask the minister what in the world was going on. Absolutely no one, including the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, knew that these six centres were scheduled to be closed.

10 p.m.

In my conversation with the minister I asked him what in the world he intended to do with the very excellent facilities at the Bluewater Centre, including the relatively new construction that had taken place.

He said to me, "The Bluewater Centre is ideally suited for a centre for young offenders." He certainly knew at that time they were going to be considering some of these centres for the developmentally handicapped he was closing, with the intent of using them for the young offenders.

Even prior to the announcement he was going to close these centres, it is my understanding that an engineer had been sent to the Bluewater Centre to look at the facility to see if it would render itself for use by the young offenders. Nobody can tell me the minister and his staff did not know they were going to be turning these facilities previously used by the developmentally handicapped into centres for young offenders.

Let me get back to the article, which says it much better than I can.

"The simple fact is that, less than a month before the Young Offenders Act was to become law, there was a shocking lack of preparedness in this province. Queen's Park had not even established which ministry was going to be given overall responsibility for implementation. Community and Social Services, which had been responsible for the kids under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, was operating under the as-

sumption that it would retain that role. It seems, however, that the Ministry of Corrections was pushing a takeover bid and that this inter-ministerial power battle had been dropped in the plump lap of Premier William Davis.

"None of this would matter much if the problems were self-containable, but they spread far out into the community. Agencies directly and deeply involved with young offenders (or which might become deeply and directly involved, depending on the directions the province takes) have been stonewalled by Queen's Park.

"As long ago as last July a letter was sent to the Premier over the names of the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto, Central Toronto Youth Services, Huntley Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Anglican House and the Criminal Lawyers Association. The letter asked for guidance on a number of fundamental issues, including the ministry of record and which courts would be involved. The Premier did not reply. On February 15 of this year, another letter was sent, undersigned by some of the same agencies. '...There are still critical policy decisions remaining to be taken by you...' That is a quote from the letter to the Premier.

"Once again, there was no reply. The suspicion is that despite the fact that there were and are a fair number of people working hard within their ministries, and that official interministerial discussions have been ongoing for some time, Queen's Park has refused to come to terms with the Young Offenders Act. The expression I kept hearing was 'minimal compliance.' In other words, this province—and others, to be sure—is doing as little as possible to make the act work the way it was intended. The oft-repeated excuse I received was that it was a question of time and money. Which I consider indefensible. We're not talking mineral rights here, we're talking children's rights.

"Let's deal with 'money' first. Once Ottawa passed the Young Offenders Act, responsibility for making it work was passed to the provinces. Without truly solid evidence that the new system was going to cost more than the existing one, Ontario (for example) demanded an increase of 'X' million dollars in federal funds. Ottawa, having no more idea of the new costs than the provinces, offered 'Y' million dollars—significantly less than 'X.' So there was a standoff, which led to Ontario doing as little as possible until a deal was struck. Instead of attempting to be innovative and creative, the Conservative government has been grudging and small-

minded, putting financial considerations ahead of all else.

"Which brings us to the 'time' factor. The province seemed to be operating under the assumption that the act could be delayed until hell froze over. As a result, an enormous amount of discussion, particularly discussion with agencies that had vital interests in all aspects of implementation, from arrest to final disposition in the courtroom, never took place. It was as if Queen's Park did not want to explore options and alternatives, an attitude of the less said, the better."

I would dearly love to read the whole article because it is surely a condemnation of the actions of this minister and of this government. The minister also stands to be condemned for the replies he makes in this House. If the members take a look at some of the news media reports and follow what some television stations have to say, they will find they are now starting to condemn the government for taking the attitude that it has the divine right to rule and that we as opposition members have no right to stand up and ask questions. The kind of answer the minister gave me this afternoon is highly irresponsible and unlike a minister who cares about what is going on within his ministry.

In connection with the question I put to the minister this afternoon, I want to go back over a little history. In May 1981 the Minister of Community and Social Services visited the Bluewater Centre in Goderich. During that visit he praised highly the staff and their work at the centre, making such comments as: "truly a community"; "centre is extremely significant"; "vital and viable part of the community"; "whatever successes you achieve now, however enormous they may seem now, will be pale and minuscule in terms of what we will do in the future"; "if you were not here and this was grass, think of the enormous loss in human potential and the loss to the whole community."

Those are excerpts from the speech the minister made in Goderich in May 1981. He allayed the fears of the people there that this facility would ever be closed and said they were doing wonderful work for the developmentally handicapped. The minister knows as well as I do that they had some of the best programs you would find in this province. It was a home; it was as close as you would get anywhere to a community home as far as the developmentally handicapped people and the staff were concerned.

But no, in October 1982 the very same minister announced the five-year plan, a low-cost option that entailed the closing of six centres for the developmentally handicapped. One of the centres to be closed was the Bluewater Centre in Goderich, which the minister had praised so highly only a few months earlier.

The minister stated the plan's purpose was to expand community living alternatives for developmentally handicapped people. However, the actual text of the plan never mentioned deinstitutionalization. Instead it states, "This plan must address both facility- and community-based services in an integrated package designed to meet necessary service requirements in the most efficient and effective way possible so as to optimize the use of government funding."

Even though the original five-year plan did not sound very promising to most of us, some of us took a wait-and-see attitude. Even after the fiasco the government made of deinstitutionalizing psychiatric patients, some people felt they should give the government the benefit of the doubt for the sake of the principle of deinstitutionalization. We in the Liberal Party, of course, support deinstitutionalization, and even we were prepared to give the minister the benefit of the doubt, although for what reason I have no idea.

By December 1983, more than a year had passed since the announcement of the five-year plan, and the evidence speaks for itself. The last of the Bluewater Centre's residents were to be gone by the middle of December; and that was an extension of the original date, which had been set for some time in October, had then been extended to November and then to December.

10:10 p.m.

Of Bluewater's original 150 residents, almost half, or 72 people, have gone back into facilities. They have been reinstitutionalized. Of those 72 people, 58 have gone to the Midwestern Regional Centre at Palmerston, a facility of more than 200 beds which is larger than the Bluewater Centre, so they have gone to a larger institution. Six more have gone to the Oxford Regional Centre, a facility that is supposed to be reduced in size, not increased. When it is reduced in size, will those six people be moved yet again?

I for one do not think the government has lived up to its promise of deinstitutionalization in the case of the Bluewater Centre and neither does the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

I attended a meeting in St. Thomas a matter of three or four weeks ago set up by the Save the START committee. We had many concerned people from all over the province at that meeting.

A research document submitted by OPSEU showed 45 per cent of the residents who had been moved by the centres that had been closed thus far had gone into larger institutions. This is contrary to the minister's policy of deinstitutionalization.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not correct.

Mr. Riddell: We will see who is correct.

However, even the Bluewater residents who have been deinstitutionalized will suffer. As opposed to the staff of more than 100 people who previously worked at the Bluewater Centre and who served not only the centre's residents but also a community case load of 135 clients, the area will now be served by three crisis teams. These teams will be composed of two professionals, a psychologist and a counsellor and will be supported by backup resources of nurses and social workers.

I cannot believe six people can replace qualified staff of more than 100 people. From those statistics, I believe and the concerned people of this province believe we are justified in saying the Bluewater experiment has been yet another government fiasco.

To go back to the question I put to the minister this afternoon, asking if it was true the minister was caught with the proverbial pants down around his ankles, with the Young Offenders Act having been introduced in the House of Commons and all of a sudden he finds he has to scurry around and find facilities for the young offenders. What does he do? He turns the developmentally handicapped out of the places they were pleased to call home, where excellent progress was being made for these people.

The matter was raised in the Ministry of Community and Social Services estimates in June 1983. Questions were asked of Mr. McDonald, the deputy minister. In answer to a question, Mr. McDonald said:

"When we were identifying the mental retardation program, we identified possible centres, both the ones that were occupied now and those that were not occupied or mothballed, that might be reactivated without getting into an institutional setting for young offenders. The danger is that if you open everything, you might fill them."

The deputy minister was suggesting they had planned for those centres when they closed. I see the minister shaking his head, as he did when he sat beside his deputy in the estimates. He proceeded to shut his deputy up and immediately he stepped in and said: "Wait a minute. I wish the member would reword his question." He did

everything possible to try to get away from the subject at hand.

Then the member for Scarborough West pursued the line of questioning and said to Mr. McDonald, "But it is fair to say that prior to the announcement of the closing of the Bluewater Centre as a facility for the mentally retarded, you were already planning to look into the correctional possibilities of that building?"

Mr. McDonald's response was, "Of that and other areas across the system."

Once again, the minister jumped in and said: "Wait a minute, would you? He did not exactly say that. I want that question phrased again. You are saying prior to the announcement or prior to the decision?" Well, you can see what is going on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Keep going.

Mr. Riddell: All right, I will keep going.

After the member for Scarborough West pursued it, Mr. McDonald said:

"Prior to the announcement, internally we were looking at all areas across Ontario for potential correctional facilities. After the decision was made, the decision was made at my level to look into it actually as a physical facility, and we hired architects and engineers to go to look at it."

Hon. Mr. Drea: After the decision was made.

Mr. Riddell: The minister cannot deny the fact that an engineer was sent to Goderich to look at facilities before he ever came out with the five-year plan.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, sir. You just hanged yourself.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Riddell: That is the thing that bothers me. When we put questions in the House, we expect honest answers. I have to say we were treated to what I consider to be less than honest answers and certainly no answers when the minister got up, refused to answer a question and simply stated, "Well, that is the most stupid question I have ever heard asked in the Legislature." Let me tell him it is going to come back to haunt him.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Let the record show the honourable member will never read anything again.

Mr. McClellan: What is the minister going to do, beat him up?

Mr. Riddell: Idle threats.

Mr. McClellan: Take him outside.

Mr. Eakins: Where is the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard)?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Riddell: I think what has been done by this minister is somewhat criminal. He has taken six of the best centres for the developmentally handicapped in this province and has closed them down because with the introduction of the Young Offenders Act, he found he had to come up with facilities to accommodate the young offenders. This is just a continuation of this government's disorganization when he is closing correctional facilities such as the one in Haldimand-Norfolk.

Mr. G. I. Miller: White Oaks Village.

Mr. Riddell: White Oaks Village was closed. What was the facility in Victoria-Haliburton?

Mr. Eakins: Kawartha Lakes School in Lindsay.

Mr. Riddell: Kawartha Lakes School. In other words, across the province he closed down these facilities, and then all of a sudden he found he had to come up with new facilities for the young offenders. He said to the developmentally handicapped, "I am sorry, folks, but we are going to have to put you out of your home because we have got to come up with something for the young offenders."

This is not right and the minister will for ever stand to be condemned for that decision, considering that many of the residents of these facilities have gone back to larger institutions. There has been poor planning all the way through. The minister did not have the support services set up in the communities for his so-called community homes, and as a result there is no other place for many of these residents to go other than back to the larger institutions.

He will never live down the decision to close those facilities at a time when he did not have the support services in place in the communities. Looking back over the sequence of events, the reason he closed the facilities for the developmentally handicapped, as far as I am concerned and as far as many people in this province are concerned, was for the accommodation of the young offenders. The minister stands to be condemned. On that note, I sit down.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes that remain and just following along on what the member for Huron-Middlesex has said, we share the kind of concerns and the very questions that have been raised by the honourable member with respect to the Bluewater Centre conversion for correctional purposes and the role of the minister in connection with it. I do not

know whether the minister is informed about the matter.

On behalf of our party, on March 5 I wrote to the minister's colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) to ask specifically that there be an environmental assessment with respect to the question of the Bluewater conversion, so there would be a public opportunity both to air the concerns with respect to the closing and to assess the questions with respect to the proposed future use.

Our assessment was that the position taken by the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) in making the submission for an exemption to the Minister of the Environment was specious. He was in the position that he had to put before the Minister of the Environment the circumstances leading to the need for an urgent decision without an environmental assessment.

This is no game that is being played. If the Minister of Government Services applied for an exemption under the Environmental Assessment Act, who am I to say an environmental assessment was not an appropriate opportunity under the act for a public review of the reasons for the conversion project, let alone the matters that have been raised by the member for Huron-Middlesex with respect to the details of the closing? I do not intend to pursue that, but I want the House to know in the closing minutes of the debate this evening and before I move the adjournment of the debate that we believe no exemption should be granted.

I tried to find out today, and with the co-operation of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment I undoubtedly will find out shortly, the decision of the committee looking into the question of the advice to be given to the minister.

The minister cannot pretend it has nothing to do with him. It was his decision to close the Bluewater conversion project and the involvement of his ministry in the plans for the feasibility study with respect to its conversion into a facility for the 16- and 17-year-olds that led us to raise with the Minister of the Environment the question of the assessment.

In my letter to the Minister of the Environment, we stated:

"The government has already made a grievous error in rushing through the closure of the Bluewater Centre for the developmentally handicapped without properly planning for the continuum of care required by the residents. Mr. Ashe is advocating a continued suppression of public involvement by seeking an exemption

from the terms of the Environmental Assessment Act. The public is entitled to make its views known both about the former use and the proposed development of a young offenders' centre.

"This matter has been cloaked in secrecy from the beginning. The feasibility study which forms the basis for the conversion is still not available to the public. Lack of consultation has characterized the project.

"The purpose of the Environmental Assessment Act is clear. It is the betterment of the people of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and the wise management of their environment. Their environment includes the social, economic and cultural conditions influencing their lives or their communities. To protect these rights, the act sets out the procedure for assessing the environment, review of the assessment and public participation at hearings with respect to the undertaking.

"These rights are fundamental. The people of Ontario should not be deprived of these basic rights as a result of the minister's lack of due diligence in preparing and submitting an environmental assessment.

"The only argument the minister has put forward in support of his application for an exemption is his desire 'to expedite this project.'

"Any delay in this matter has been caused by the lack of diligence of the ministries involved. The Comsoc feasibility study was completed in March 1983—10 months before Mr. Ashe applied for this exemption. In September 1983, Mr. Gordon Walker, the Provincial Secretary for Justice, announced that Bluewater would be turned into a new facility for young offenders. Four and a half months then elapsed before the present application for an exemption was made.

"The minister now argues that 'the crown and the public will be interfered with in that there will be a delay in the provision of suitable detention facilities...' That is basically the only argument he puts forward in the course of his submission.

"Although material has been filed giving a chronology of events with respect to the Bluewater closing, there has been no material filed to indicate the type of environment which will be created for young offenders. We fail to see the connection between the mere chronology of events in the filed material and an environmental assessment of a facility for 174 young offenders.

"In the draft exemption order which Mr. Ashe submitted, he indicates that it is in the public interest to order that this undertaking be exempt

from the application of the act for the following reasons:

"A. The undertaking is a continuation of the institutional use of the existing site.

"The young offenders' facility will clearly not be a continuation of the existing use. The environment which would be appropriate for the developmentally handicapped is significantly different from that which is appropriate for young offenders.

"B. All work will be restricted to interior alterations of the existing vacant buildings (with the exception of the external security fence).

"Although most of the work involves interior alterations, those alterations are very extensive. It is impossible to believe that the nature of the institution can be changed so significantly without having an effect on the environment of the institution and the neighbouring community.

"C. The facilities are relatively isolated, on a large piece of government-owned property in a rural setting.

"The relative isolation of the institution did not preclude well over 10,000 people from signing petitions and sending letters about the Bluewater closure. As was noted in the project justification, 'Over 150 letters...were received and answered by ministry officials regarding the closure. Three petitions were also received, one with 10,000 names.'

"Also, the very isolation of the facilities could have a serious impact on the environment of young offenders. It appears likely that a 174-cell facility for 16- and 17-year-olds will serve more than the Goderich area. What accessibility will there be for families, friends, youth workers and community?

"D. Conversion of the existing facilities would represent a considerable savings to the crown in time and funds.

"The mere fact that the minister alleges that there will be savings should not serve as the basis for denying the right to an environmental assessment and public hearings. The right to assess and wisely manage the environment is a matter which cannot receive roughshod treatment even assuming (although the minister supplied no evidence by which this could be established) that there could be government savings in time and funds."

The fifth item is a fatuous one:

"E. The crown is required by federal law to provide suitable facilities within a severely restrictive deadline."

I go on simply to comment: "It is essential that this conversion be evaluated and opened to public debate."

I ask later: "Why will the 16- and 17-year-olds be separate from the 12- to 15-year-olds? Is this in the best interests of the children? Given that the Young Offenders Act has as its objective the creation of a unified justice system for children aged 12 to 17, why will the 16- and 17-year-olds be separate from the 12- to 15-year-olds? What will the impact of this be?

"The Young Offenders Act has as its objective the right of young persons to the least possible interference with their freedom consistent with the protection of society. Is the proposed environment consistent with this objective? Will the jail-like setting created by these renovations be in the children's best interests?

"Which ministry will be operating the centre? The letter requesting the exemption was written by the Minister of Government Services on behalf of the Ministry of Correctional Services, and the project justification was prepared by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Dual ministry involvement will surely lead to duplication of services and confusion. What impact will this have on the lives of residents and those working with residents? Is this in the best interest of the children?

"What impact will the conversion have on the Goderich community? What impact will it have on others involved with the judicial system in Ontario?

"These questions and many more must be properly assessed, then scrutinized and opened to public hearings."

Mr. Speaker: I call the member's attention to the clock.

Mr. Renwick: "We ask that you deny the minister's request for the exemption and proceed immediately with the assessments and public participation requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act."

Mr. Speaker, as it is 10:30 p.m. and that seems a fitting conclusion, I will deal with the substance of the bill on the next occasion.

On motion by Mr. Renwick, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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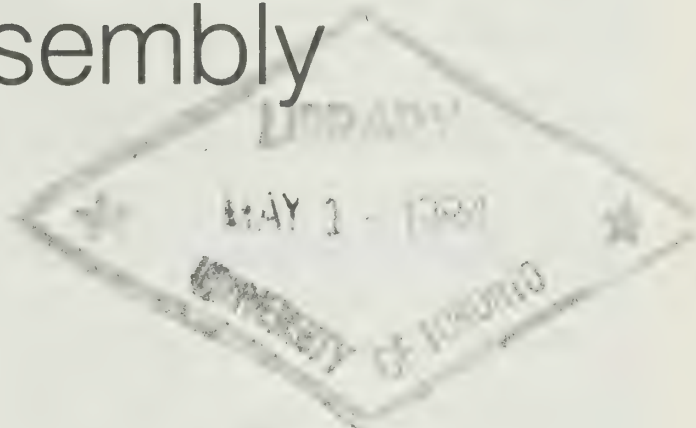
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, April 18, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, April 18, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CANADA HEALTH ACT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware that the Canada Health Act received royal assent in Ottawa yesterday with the support of all parties there.

The day of reckoning has arrived for this government and for this minister. I want to put a simple question to this minister. Is he going to follow the spirit and the law of the Canada Health Act, or is he going to subject the people of this province to at least a \$50-million penalty by his failure to comply with that law?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, that is a strange question, I should think, from the Leader of the Opposition. Obviously, this government will be complying with the law of the land. The specific ways in which we will adapt in order to do so will be announced in due course.

He says the day of reckoning has come. The bill has been passed and is now law, but the operative provisions of it do not all come into effect at the moment. It would be folly on our part, it seems to me, to react at this stage without very careful examination of all of the ramifications of the legislation and very careful assessment of the implications of a variety of courses of action that may be open to us.

Mr. Peterson: I want to ask a simple question. Rather than trying to figure out ways to get around it, is the minister prepared now to respect the spirit and the letter of that law by banning extra billing and user fees in this province so that we are not subjected to a \$50-million penalty?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to evaluate all the implications of that legislation carefully, he would understand it is not simply a matter of banning or not banning extra billing within this jurisdiction. He would perhaps understand that the complexity of either of those courses of action would require some assessment of the implications throughout the system and the impact upon the citizens of this province. It is

precisely that course of action we propose to follow; that is, we are going to look very carefully at all the implications of a whole host of approaches that may be open to us.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health knows that is absolute gobbledegook. He has had months to come up with basic answers to the questions. Is he going to outlaw extra billing in Ontario or not? Is he going to increase user fees or not? Is he going to introduce fees for chronic copayment or not? Is he going to reduce OHIP premiums or not?

The people of this province are entitled to know the answers to those basic questions. Why is the minister not prepared to answer them today? He has had months literally to come before this House with a conclusion as to what is going to happen.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, once again, if the leader of the third party had closely followed the development and evolution of this legislation in its rather arduous course through the House of Commons and ultimately to the Senate—

Mr. Rae: Yes, it was really arduous. It had unanimous consent from day one.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the member had watched the development of the legislation, he would understand it has undergone some very significant changes in evolving over the time it was before the parliamentarians of this country.

Unlike certain parties on the other side of this Legislature which are given to knee-jerk reactions, we tend to take a more deliberative approach to making decisions which are clearly in the best interests of the citizens of this province.

In response to the preamble to the question, we have indicated consistently throughout that we have no plans whatsoever to introduce user fees. We do not have user fees attached to any insurable services in the province and it is not part of our contemplation to do so at the moment.

As to the matter of premiums, although they are not exclusively within the jurisdiction of my ministry, the federal government, in developing this legislation, recognized that was clearly within the jurisdiction of the province. It is not my expectation that will be changed.

Mr. Peterson: We have listened to the minister's twisted reasoning for months. We have seen him put his arguments and we have seen them fail. We have seen the influence of the Ontario Medical Association on the policymaking of the province. Now the crunch has come.

Is the minister prepared to bring in legislation now to ban extra billing and user fees in this province? He cannot go on equivocating forever. Will he do it?

Mr. McClellan: It is a safety valve.

Mr. Rae: What happened to the safety valve?

Mr. Martel: It blew.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think it just blew over there.

Mr. Roy: You are not looking at polls.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am pleased and flattered that the Leader of the Opposition has been listening to me so carefully for the last many months, as he said. I do not recall he has raised the question in the Legislature previously, when he might have had an opportunity on those many occasions when I sat here and waited for questions from the opposition and did not receive them. Suddenly he has now been listening to what I have been saying for all these months, and it obviously was not in response to an interest he had expressed in the subject.

The Leader of the Opposition can be assured the ultimate decision by this government with respect to its response to and compliance with the federal legislation will be one that reflects the characteristic sensitivity of this government to the needs and interests of all the people of this province.

Mr. Peterson: If the minister were not so hysterical and emotional about this, his memory would be better, but I will leave that for just a moment.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. He will be aware that we started a discussion a few days ago with his colleague the Premier (Mr. Davis) with respect to the pension fund borrowings of this province and the dilemma he faces as the Treasurer preparing the new budget. He will be aware that the province of Ontario owes some \$25 billion.

I will keep talking while he checks notes. He can tell me when he is ready for the question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am always ready for the member's questions. I am getting prepared for the next one.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer will be aware, too, because of the studies he has looked at, that the Ontario Economic Council study said Ontario is so successful in laying off its debts in slush funds that more than 130 per cent of the net debt of the province is held by the Canada pension plan and the big five public sector plans. The slush funds they refer to are the ones the Treasurer and his predecessors created.

What impact is that going to have on the taxation of this province as the Treasurer now starts the process of repaying those pension funds, as he now starts paying for the Davis deficits and for the sins of his predecessors?

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you people were always urging us to spend more.

Mr. Bradley: Not on Suncor, not on land banking and not on a jet.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I had been hoping the member might try this question again. Let us sort of begin with where we are spending the money, so we will all understand the deficit. Provincial health spending—

Mr. Peterson: This has nothing to do with spending; it has to do with borrowing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will answer the question. I did not tell you how to ask it. Do not tell me how to answer it—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: —though he could use some advice on how to ask questions.

Let us start with the source of the major expenditures. As the member knows very well, health costs were \$8 billion this year and low-income support was another \$2.5 billion. Those two alone amount to \$10.5 billion of the \$24 billion this government will spend this year.

Mr. Nixon: And \$80 million for Doctors' Hospital.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have been watching pretty carefully as the member chats around the province. He and his colleagues are telling school boards and municipalities that their portions, which amount to several billion dollars, are also too low. Let us just get some perspective on where the spending is and where deficits emanate from.

In point of fact, if the member will have a look, he will realize that if it were not for the burgeoning health care costs, all other areas of the government would be running a significant

surplus. So it is in fact because of health spending we have these kinds of deficits.

Let us talk about CPP borrowings. I know the member has been saying fairly often—

Mr. Sargent: In 13 years the government has never had a balanced budget—not once.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Is he also supporting John Turner, who ran up the biggest deficits in Canada?

I know the member has been saying pretty carelessly and pretty clearly we are not going to be able to meet our CPP obligations. I wonder if he has checked. As he begins his supplementary, he will probably want to begin by noting how much debt we are retiring this year to other sources, because I know he does not have a clue what we are spending to retire debt this year. Before he holds up the spectre that when that debt is being retired to CPP three or four years from today we will not be able to retire it, as the member chats around the province trying to scare our senior citizens, I want him to add one thing to that scare tactic.

He should tell them we are spending at about the same level to retire debt as we will be when that debt is retired to CPP. In other words, at the same time as the member suggests we will not have the capacity to retire CPP obligations, I want him to be aware that this year we are retiring as much in debt obligations as we will be three years from today when we will be paying it to CPP—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member did not have that information. He was not aware we were retiring any debt this year.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is important information.

Mr. Peterson: I refer the Treasurer to another part of the study from the economic council that says the provinces can repay the CPP debt only with increased taxes or new borrowing. I am not asking about the government's spending priorities. We all agree they are completely skewed and fouled up. To stand in this House and justify Suncor, the government's land banks, its advertising, Minaki Lodge and all that other nonsense—

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Peterson: —is even beyond the Treasurer. If he wants a speech on the government's spending practices, he will get it. I am asking him

about borrowing. As he knows, he and his predecessors have been forced to borrow a great deal of money for the foolishness of some of their spending, not spending in the right places. My question is a very simple one. By how much is the government going to raise taxes in order to repay the \$25 billion it owes the pension fund?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As some measure, the member should keep in mind that the amount it will take to retire our obligations to the Canada pension plan will be about the same as it took this year to retire other obligations. The spectre the member wishes to hold up, that there will enormous tax increases to pay off a debt falling due three years from today, is just that—smoke and mirrors and a spectre he is using to scare people. It has nothing to do with reality. This year, with current tax loads, which remain quite competitive across Canada, we are able to retire the same amount of debt. That is a problem for the member, is it not?

Mr. Peterson: If we have the Treasurer's solemn promise that the government is not going to raise taxes to retire that debt, that means it is going to have to borrow—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I refer him to that great financial expert, the Premier, who said one of two things would happen. We are either going to borrow or raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: That is what he said. Now he gives the Treasurer the instructions—

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I didn't say that. Don't ever quote me about taxes.

Mr. Peterson: That is what he said. We all heard it.

How much is the government going to borrow to roll over that debt? From what source will it get it? Is it going to go to private capital markets? What is that going to do for interest rates, recognizing, as the Treasurer already knows, that 70 per cent of the capital markets of this country are now occupied by government?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am glad I coaxed the member into asking a final supplementary. The final thing I want to add is that all the Canada pension plan borrowing that has been undertaken was not undertaken because we could not find other sources to borrow from. As I hope the members know, it was pursuant to the arrangement set up when CPP was organized in the mid-1960s by all 11 governments in this country.

All governments agreed that the moneys paid into CPP would be available to those same people

through loans made back to the provinces, back to the government. For him to suggest to anyone that we are gobbling up CPP moneys which we were not intended to have is a great fraud for him to put out. It is exactly and precisely in accordance with the intended CPP arrangements, supported by all governments, including the federal government. It is exactly what was intended. We have not borrowed any more than we are allowed to.

2:20 p.m.

It was set up to ensure the provinces would be able to meet their obligations to accomplish that. We will be able to meet our obligation. There is not the slightest indication, not from the people who lend us money in the private market, the public markets, the credit rating agencies, nor anyone, that any province in this country, let alone Ontario, which has a triple-A credit rating, will not be able to meet its obligations to the Canada pension plan or anything else.

I repeat, the CPP borrowing is what it was anticipated to be when it was set up. It has met all the requirements. It is entirely in order. It is consistent and predictable, as set out when the CPP was organized. It has not been tapped unexpectedly to do anything but finance services to current taxpayers who are paying into their own pensions. They have asked that their money, instead of being lost to them, be available through CPP to finance current services.

HYDRO EXPANSION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister sent a letter dated April 16 to the chairman of the Ontario Energy Board. Once again, in his letter of transmittal concerning Ontario Hydro rates, the minister explicitly excluded the system expansion program from the review of the energy board.

In the light of the fact that the percentage of interest in foreign exchange needed for Hydro's revenue requirements will jump from 26 per cent in 1984 to 35 per cent in 1985, an enormous jump, how can the minister possibly exclude from the energy board the very items that are causing the increase? How can he possibly justify not giving the energy board the ability to deal with capital expansion, interest borrowing and so forth when that is what is causing the increases?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Ontario Energy Board to review the Ontario Hydro rate proposal. It might be useful at this time to correct the record. One news report noted that the Minister of Energy will be

recommending that rate to the energy board. That is not the case. I have asked the energy board to review the rate request and have stipulated in my letter that the system expansion program as it bears on the 1985 rate will be the subject of the board's consideration.

Mr. Rae: I want to quote the doubletalk that comes out of the minister's mouth. In his own letter to the energy board, he says, "As in previous years, the board shall review and report on the impact of the system expansion program on the proposed rates; however, the system expansion program is excluded from this review."

Average hydro customers were paying for interest rates and foreign exchange costs on their hydro bills until April 4. Everything we paid from January 1 to April 4 this year went to interest and foreign exchange payments. The minister is saying that aspect, system expansion, is excluded from the review.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: How can the minister possibly justify excluding from the review the very matters that now most concern the customers of Ontario Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I think I answered that question previously. The system expansion program as it bears on the 1985 rate, as it bore on the 1984 and the 1983 rates, was the subject of consideration by the energy board.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, why does the minister set himself up as an apologist for Ontario Hydro when he does not have the power to do anything when it comes to Hydro because of the Power Corporation Act?

Does it not seem a reasonable suggestion to have Hydro's capital expansion program reviewed when Hydro has indicated it plans to borrow \$64 billion over the next 20 years? Why does the minister not do something about the fact that he is totally impotent when it comes to Ontario Hydro? Why does he not review the Power Corporation Act and get some teeth into what he is doing instead of setting himself up as some sort of apologist?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I do not recognize that I am an apologist for Ontario Hydro. Hydro will account for itself at the energy board hearings and in any other public review process, including the estimates of my ministry and the standing committee on public accounts. The information the board requests in relation to the rate will be on the public record at those hearings.

Mr. Rae: If you use only utilities and your annual electricity bill is \$396, you will be paying \$103 for Ontario Hydro's interest payments and foreign exchange costs; that is \$103 out of \$396. If you are using hydro for heating as well and have an average bill of \$1,256, you will be paying \$327 out of that \$1,256 on interest payments and foreign exchange payments alone.

Given the extent of Hydro's debt and the impact of that debt and of the interest payments on the average consumer, which board is reviewing the system expansion, the capital expansion, the need for borrowing and the way in which borrowing is happening? What protection do consumers have in this province? If they cannot go to the Ontario Energy Board, where can they go to get some protection from the impact of these increasing costs?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The leader of the third party is trying to heighten people's apprehension with respect to the rates and the impact the system expansion program has on the rates. He is probably delving in tactics similar to those of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) in his previous question to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

I can only remind him again, as I have on two separate occasions during this question period, that the subject of the system expansion program as it relates to the rate for 1985 will be reviewed by the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. Rae: It does not have the power to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. When I caught his eye a moment ago, he put up two fingers, not one. I take it from that he is going to be back in two minutes, so I will stand the question down and hope he comes back.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the Premier had to leave for the opening of the new burns unit at Wellesley Hospital. He had to meet the Lieutenant Governor. It is not likely he will be back before question period is over.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, in that case I will have to ask the question of the Deputy Premier, because it involves a matter of the fundamental policy of the government of this province.

I have in my hand a copy of a letter from Mr. Allan Gregg, the president of Decima Research. The letter is dated March 16, 1984. It is addressed to an employer, and it is part of an overall questionnaire directed to the employers of the province with regard to the role and policies of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The letter says, "This study will provide the board with the necessary tools to meet the demands emanating from one of their key partners in the work force, the employers."

The questions not only involve matters of the relationship between employers and the board but also relate directly to the government's white paper, to the issues involving the rates of compensation and to the question of what kinds of payments are going to be made to injured workers.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier why this kind of study is being conducted and whether a similar study is being conducted of the views of injured workers—those who are in need and those who have rights under the Workers' Compensation Act, not just employers—and whether he is prepared to make the results of this survey public prior to the government bringing in any legislation with respect to workers' compensation.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is that I am not familiar with the correspondence to which the honourable member makes reference or the relationship between that company and the recipient of that letter, so I cannot add anything by way of response to the letter.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The fact of the matter is that the Workers' Compensation Board has hired the Tories' own polling firm, Decima Research, to conduct a poll of employers in this province with respect to legislation that affects the rights of workers in this province. There is a fundamental matter of policy involved. Are the workers and the people of this province going to know the results of this survey before the government brings down its legislation?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The leader of the third party has assumed that the services in question have been retained by the Workers' Compensation Board. All I can suggest is that if he has some specific questions in relation to that, they should be directed to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) when he is next in his place.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, there is no question but that the survey was commissioned by the Workers' Compensation Board; it states that in the covering letter to the employers. That is not even debatable.

I want to ask the Deputy Premier, and perhaps he can ask the Minister of Labour or the Premier himself, what in the world this government commissioned Professor Weiler for, why it put out its own white paper and why we had a

standing committee of this Legislature debating these very questions. All three parties worked very hard in that committee in trying to come up with a final report on Reshaping Workers' Compensation for Ontario. As a member of that committee, I must say I feel insulted by the actions of the Workers' Compensation Board.

I do not know whether the government knew the board was going to do that at the time. I would like to know that. I would also like to know whether the Deputy Premier thinks this is the way in which the Minister of Labour is weaselling out of his own responsibilities and out of bringing in legislation to make things better for injured workers in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, let me just comment on the last little remark about the Minister of Labour weaselling out of anything. We have an outstanding Minister of Labour in this province, and I want that to be understood. He would be in his place this afternoon to respond to these questions and these allegations if it were not for some family problems that required his return to Sault Ste. Marie.

I told the main questioner that I cannot provide any information about who has commissioned the survey with respect to this matter. I will refer the matter to the Minister of Labour on his return, since there is some reference to the Workers' Compensation Board. I think that should be sufficient at the moment until such time as we have the benefit of factual information. But in getting it, let us not start attacking people personally about weaseling out of their responsibilities. The member for Sault Ste. Marie is doing a great job as Minister of Labour in this province.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) will not be in the House this afternoon? Perhaps the government House leader or someone else can advise me.

Hon. Mr. Wells: As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, he is going to be in.

Mr. Roy: Possibly I can stand my question down. I want to ask a question of the Attorney General.

DENISON MINES

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy. I wish the press would listen to this question, because what is going on is scandalous but nobody seems to be doing anything about it.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Sargent: Denison Mines had the biggest profit in history this year. They were guaranteed a profit of \$2 billion a year for the whole uranium contract. They also got a loan of \$650 million, interest free. The interest-free factor is about \$1 billion over the term of this contract.

By law, Ontario has the power to raise the annual acreage fee for mining leases on crown land—we own the land—to a level that would wipe out Denison's windfall profits over the whole deal. Denison currently pays the absurdly low fee of \$5,000 a year for the right to mine this 2,874 acres of provincial land.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sargent: The Minister of Energy has the statutory power to do this, as mentioned a minute ago, whether or not he does it.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Sargent: He has the power to terminate Denison's mining leases, most of which come up for renewal in 1986. How can Ontario Hydro—

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: You lose all the—the members should not bother me.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed.

Mr. Sargent: How can Hydro justify the vicious rate increases to our citizens when the minister will not move to change this scandalous agreement? The minister has the power to change it—either the minister, the Premier or someone must have the power. The minister must have a guilty feeling when he cashes his paycheque if he is not doing something on this.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I have so many notes on the honourable member's question that I do not know where to start. I should probably redirect this question to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), given the fact that he is the one responsible for mining rights.

I want to say to the member that this has been the subject of some considerable debate, not only in this House but also in committees of the Legislature, most recently in the standing committee on public accounts when the member raised the issue and then did not see fit to participate in the debate.

The contracts have been confirmed. As they come up for renewal, no doubt Ontario Hydro will seek to discuss its future purchases of uranium from Denison in the best interests of both the electrical consumers of the province and the utility.

Mr. Sargent: The fact is that I could not be at the meeting, but the problem still stands.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Sargent: The price of this uranium at the mine head is \$1 a pound. The world price is \$30 a pound. We are paying \$40 to \$50 a pound. How long is this screwing of the public going to go on?

Is the minister going to do something about it or not? It is unbelievable that this can happen and that the minister is doing nothing about it. Either he does not care or the Premier does not care, so no one cares and the public is being screwed both ways.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I expect what the member is saying is that Hydro should abrogate existing contracts that have been confirmed not only by this Legislature but also by select committees of the Legislature. If the member is saying that, he should say so publicly.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

Has the minister read the article by Lois Kalchman in yesterday's Toronto Star? It states:

"Fighting and match penalties in the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League have increased by more than 20 per cent this season...Police have been called to at least 20 games...fighting penalties have risen from 621 last season to 752" this year. "'We have had 60 team officials ejected from games...'"

It must be obvious to the minister that despite the McMurtry study and the McPherson study, attitudes amongst coaches, parents and league officials have not changed much. What type of funding is the minister prepared to put in and how much clout is he prepared to use to bring about an umbrella group that will be responsible to oversee all hockey involving the youth of this province?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to this House and in particular to the member for Sudbury East over the last few weeks, I am as concerned as he is about the continuing roughness of amateur hockey in this province.

As the honourable member also knows, and as I have indicated, we have had ongoing negotiations, with the help of Mr. Syl Apps, to try to get some umbrella organization organized that would be acceptable to organized hockey, help the leagues to mitigate some of the roughness in the game, improve the refereeing and coaching, improve the accident rate and so on. We are in the midst of this.

I can only tell the member and all members of this House that I will not rest until such time as

we have some kind of a mechanism that is going to bring about more control—if one wants to use that word—of the game than exists now.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: The minister had advance knowledge that the committee was falling apart. Since 60 team officials were ejected in the MTHL alone and since 25 abuse-of-officials penalties have been noted, it must be obvious that those responsible for hockey and who are teaching youngsters have attitudes that have to change significantly if we expect youngsters to play the game the way it should be played.

Maybe the minister can answer a question which appeared in the Globe and Mail the day before yesterday. Can any official responsible for law and order explain why brawling, fighting or acts usually determined to be violations of the Criminal Code are found to be generally acceptable acts when they happen within the confines of an arena? What is the difference between attacking a person on the street with intent to injure him and attacking a person on the ice? Is it not time we prevented kids from becoming not only the victims but also the perpetrators of the crime?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I can only repeat what I have said on a number of occasions recently and for the last several years. We are seeking a mechanism to bring about some of the objectives the member opposite wants and we want.

I can only say here today that I am very optimistic, far more optimistic than I have been even in the last few days or few weeks, that we are getting very close to bringing into place a mechanism; and whether it is a committee or whether it is something else I am not prepared to say here today. I am very optimistic we are going to put into place something that is going to help the organized hockey world to reach these objectives which the member wants and we over here want.

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), in what might be considered an excess of disinformation considering his point of privilege at the beginning, which you decided was not privilege, suggested that Algonquin College was using a lottery for all admissions.

Algonquin College staff are very annoyed that anyone would suggest they used a lottery at all, and they tell me very clearly that they use random selection only after all of the other admission procedures have been applied.

The point is that Algonquin College has 150 programs. This is the list of those programs in which random selection is used. There are 19 programs in the skills training area, of which 12 are short programs sponsored by the federal government in which there are a few seats retained for fee-paying students.

Out of all of the other programs there is one program in applied arts in which the random selection is used, seven in health science and three in business. In all other programs the usual admission procedures are in fact carried out.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, during her answer to the member for Renfrew North the Minister of Colleges and Universities made a definite statement that there were no other community colleges in this province using what is commonly referred to as a lottery system. She calls it the random selection system.

Would the minister not agree with me that the funeral services program at Humber College, I believe it is—she can correct me if I am wrong there—does use the so-called lottery system to select students when it has eliminated all the other criteria?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member had been listening carefully he would have realized what I said was that in those courses in which there is a limited enrolment, random selection may be used as the very last resort in order to provide fair treatment for all equally qualified students; that is really what I said.

Whether Humber College is using random selection in that program this year I do not know, but I know it did not last year. If they are doing it this year, it must mean they have an abundance of equally qualified students for that program.

GRANGE COMMISSION INQUIRY

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a question of the Attorney General on the Grange commission. I understand he will not return, so I would like to direct my question to the Provincial Secretary for Justice.

Considering the recent Court of Appeal decision, and respecting some of the principles emphasized in the decision of the Court of Appeal, I would like to ask the minister to satisfy the concerns of many of my colleagues and of many people across Ontario about the terms of reference and the role of the Grange commission.

Can the minister assure us the Attorney General, through his counsel, is making representation before the commission to see to it there is a full and complete review of the facts

surrounding the unfortunate deaths of the babies at the hospital, and second, that there is a full and complete disclosure as far as is possible of these facts to the—

Mr. Speaker, maybe I can repeat the question because I see the Attorney General has returned.

I was asking the Attorney General's colleague a question about the role and the task of the Grange commission. Respecting the decision that has just been made by the Court of Appeal protecting and emphasizing the principle of presumption of innocence and the right against self-incrimination, can the Attorney General assure the people of Ontario that he is, through his counsel who is making representation at the commission, seeing to it there is not a curtailment of the role and the task of the commission so as to make it impossible for there to be a full and complete review of the facts surrounding the death of the babies at the hospital, or otherwise that there is complete disclosure as far as is possible of these facts to the parents and to the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I entirely understand the honourable member's question. I am sure he shares my respect for the judgement of the Court of Appeal that was handed down last week, which in effect reiterated much of the statement I made to this Legislature many months ago in relation to the necessary parameters of the royal commission which must avoid reaching conclusions of civil or criminal liability.

The Court of Appeal pointed out the difficulty of that task, given the unprecedented nature of this royal commission. I think they outlined the proper safeguards that must be taken. My own counsel made representations to the Court of Appeal which may have encouraged it to reach the decision it did.

At this very moment Mr. Justice Grange, the commissioner, is hearing submissions from counsel in relation to their views about the effect of the Court of Appeal decision on the evidence that may still be introduced as we get towards the end of phase 1 and what impact this may have with respect to phase 2. I am sure the commissioner will reach a decision, on the one hand, that is going to assure a full disclosure of the events surrounding the tragic deaths that occurred at the Hospital for Sick Children, while at the same time recognizing the rights of the individuals who are giving evidence before the commission of inquiry.

Obviously, that is a difficult task. It is important to note that at least at this stage the

public has had a pretty full accounting of the events that transpired, even though there may, of course, be some mystery yet remaining.

I am not really quite sure what direction the member expects or would like to see the royal commission to go, other than the manner in which Mr. Justice Grange is trying to decide right at this moment as to the extent of the impact of the Court of Appeal decision in relation to the evidence which is still to be heard with respect to phase 1, as well as phase 2.

Mr. Roy: I appreciate what the Attorney General is saying. All of my colleagues and the public of Ontario fully understand there has been complete disclosure so far. The Attorney General will also understand that following the comments of the commissioner, there seems to be some great doubt as to how the commission can proceed in eliciting evidence involving certain people.

The commissioner has said he may even be curtailed from looking at the role played by the police, the ministry, the crown attorney and so on.

2:50 p.m.

May I have the assurance of the Attorney General that there is still latitude to allow a review of the roles? Is that his position and that of his counsel, who at present is making submissions before the commission? Do they feel there is still full latitude for the commissioner and the commission to review fully the roles played by the police, the crown attorney and the ministry in this matter? These are some of the concerns we have.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have had several discussions with our counsel over the past 24 hours. I understand the commissioner right now is hearing arguments only in relation to phase 1 of the inquiry. I can assure the member our position will be that the commissioner should not be precluded by the Court of Appeal decision from proceeding with phase 2. That phase deals with these issues of accountability to which the member has just referred.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Attorney General could tell us something else. If he is not satisfied certain answers will be coming forward as a result of the discussions now taking place with respect to the conduct not only of phase 1 but also of phase 2, would he be prepared to amend the terms of reference of the inquiry?

The basic question for most Ontarians and others is how so many deaths could have occurred over such a long period of time without

being reported to the public authorities. In that regard, is the Attorney General satisfied that question is going to be answered directly by Mr. Justice Grange's commission?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, certainly the latter part of the question is very fundamental to the role of the Grange inquiry. I am sure Mr. Justice Grange, acting as commissioner, obviously is doing everything humanly possible to obtain the answers to the questions the member has just posed. Obviously this is one of the very fundamental reasons for the establishment of the commission in the first place.

In so far as the possibility of amending the terms of reference is concerned, at this point it is entirely a hypothetical question. I do not think I can deal with that until we hear a final decision from Mr. Justice Grange as to how he intends to deal with the conclusion of phase 1, as well as phase 2. Until we have his views in that regard, it would be inappropriate for me to speculate as to what further might be done from our standpoint.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: In view of the importance of this matter and because it is the job of this government, I would like the Attorney General to tell the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order, with all respect. We will have a new question please.

ALLOCATION OF HOUSING UNITS

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I hope the minister will recall an incident I pointed out to him in the House on December 14, 1983. Certain housing authorities, such as Metropolitan Toronto, Peterborough and Sault Ste. Marie, were refusing applications to families where the parent had only interim and not final custody of the children. At that time the minister replied, "I shall review the situation." The minister has not reported back to the House on this, nor has he had the courtesy to give me a written report.

Can he tell the House what he has done in the last four months to see that this apparent injustice has been corrected?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am of the belief that I did respond to the member's question. However, I will have to check my files. I was of the opinion that back in the month of January I had submitted a letter to the member answering the question raised at that time, but I will check again.

Mr. Philip: Since I did not receive the reply, maybe the minister will refresh his memory and

inform the House and myself exactly what he did reply.

Does the minister not recognize the disgrace and injustice for a poor family in these circumstances? A family that happens to live in Peterborough or Toronto can be denied housing, even though it may be in the same economic situation as someone in a neighbouring community where the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority uses a more lenient or more just way of interpreting the Ontario Housing Corp. Manual of Administration.

What is this minister going to do to see that the Manual of Administration is applied in a uniform way, and that housing is granted on a basis of need and not on some kind of arbitrary interpretation of the guidelines by people such as those in charge of Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: One of the things I made clear during my estimates and during the fall sitting of this House was that we try to make sure that housing provided through the Ontario Housing Corp. is on the very basis the member is talking about, for the neediest first of those who apply.

We have established a point rating system. I am sure it is no secret there are some who would not agree with the entire way we establish the points, but it is a system that has been in place across the province and the housing authorities use it, I think rather extensively.

The area he speaks of gets back to the municipal nonprofits. I suppose one could even touch on the private nonprofits and the co-ops, because under the agreement they have with the federal government they have a responsibility to take a percentage of units off the waiting list as well.

Just this last week or 10 days ago, I was in some further discussions with some of the municipal nonprofits to have them come to the table to accept the offer I made last August to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which is to increase the percentage of rent-geared-to-income units from 25 to 35 per cent, plus five for physically and mentally handicapped people in those units, and to use a common waiting list with a common point-rating system as established by Ontario Housing Corp. so we would all have the same objective in life, whether it be in Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa, Toronto or Metropolitan Toronto; that is, the person with the highest point rating would get the available unit first.

That has been part of the criteria I have tried to put in place in negotiating with two of the major municipal nonprofit housing groups. It is to get them on side so that we are all trying to achieve, through public support, giving units to the neediest first.

I appreciate the member's remarks. I hope he will try to indicate to some of the members of Cityhome here in Toronto that is the direction they should be going, not constantly saying they would like to take a different group of people into the housing they happen to provide through the auspices of the federal and provincial governments.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. An Indian band in my riding, namely the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, made a request about 16 months ago for an industrial training centre. They have approval from the Ontario Council of Regents, from Loyalist College and from the skills development committee, but it has not gone before cabinet yet nor got the green light from the ministry. Could the minister tell me why?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that application does not go before cabinet. It has been under discussion and it will probably go this month before the federal-provincial new employment expansion and development committee for the May 15 banking day. The proposal that was established was related to the establishment of a unit based on the skills growth fund, and that is the kind of direction in which those applications go. It is in process right now.

Mr. Pollock: There seems to be some confusion. Would the minister meet with these people before that May 15 deadline?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will be glad to meet with them at any time. I have no compunction about doing that at all.

ADMISSIONS TO UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. It concerns the implementation of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines and the consequences for universities when four-year students, those who will be getting their full credits in four years, and those who will be taking what we call the grade 13 route at the present time arrive at university at the same time.

Could the Minister of Education reveal to the House how universities, which at the present time have to restrict their enrolment for a variety

of reasons, some of them related to financing, are going to be able to cope with the problem of students coming in? It is referred to as a double cohort problem, students with their four-year certificates from high school arriving at the doors of the university at the same time as others with five-year certificates from high school. Is there not going to be an overflow of students? How are universities going to cope with that?

3 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, at the present time this matter is under discussion with representatives of the university community. The university community has dealt with circumstances such as this very effectively in the past and has done a very good job.

Although the honourable member will not recall this, because he was obviously an infant in arms at that time, at the end of the Second World War the enrolment at the universities in this province—

Mr. Breithaupt: We all were.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You were not.

The universities in this province coped with an increase in enrolment that was of the order in some instances of more than 50 per cent. The double cohort, if there is indeed a significant double cohort at that time, will not be of that magnitude at all.

The other factor that has to be examined as well is the absolute decline in the total numbers of students who will be graduating from either the four-year program or the five-year program at that time, which is the year 1988-89.

It is a matter that is under discussion and a matter for which I am sure the universities will be establishing appropriate programs in order to meet it effectively.

Mr. Bradley: Can the minister assure the House that when that day arrives, if she happens to be Minister of Education at that time—but we are speculating only—the government of Ontario will be prepared to provide the necessary additional funding to ensure that the doors will not be closed to qualified students in the province?

Can she reveal the reason that people in various universities in this province are extremely concerned about this possibility and about the lack of apparent leadership, I will call it, from her ministry in dealing with this problem? They say nothing is being done at the present time; she says consultations are going on. I prefer to believe them.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I know the member for wherever—

Mr. Speaker: St. Catharines.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —prefers to believe anybody else but the Minister of Education, and that is because he has overwhelming aspirations to assume this responsibility. I should just like to tell him it will really be a frosty Friday when that happens. He will probably be six feet under when he might have the opportunity.

The discussions related to this have been going on ever since we were in the process of responding to the secondary education review project document. Those discussions may not have involved the people to whom the member has been talking directly, but they certainly have involved other representatives of the university community.

It is a matter that is of concern to us and we are attempting to deal with it. I will make every commitment I possibly can make that there will be appropriate opportunity for all qualified students, as there is right now, in Ontario. It is my hope this will continue to be the case for a very long period of time, particularly a long period of time during which this party remains the government of Ontario.

MOOSE TAG LOTTERY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources with regard to the moose tag lottery. Can the minister explain why this year the ministry is requiring hunters to purchase their licences before the draw instead of submitting their names for the draw and, if they are successful in getting a moose or a cow tag, then purchasing their licences? What is the reason for that?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, it is because the hunters demanded that change.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, which reads as follows:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value

was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have an unusual petition I would like to present on behalf of some young folk. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition an expansion to the time period of the pages' stay at Queen's Park."

This petition is signed by 21 pages working for the government of Ontario and also for many honourable members of the House. I want to note some of the notables who have signed this petition supporting the pages: the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), members of the Liberal Party and members of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, because of the shortness of time, I would hope you would take this matter into consideration immediately.

Mr. Speaker: I can assure the honourable member it will receive the most serious consideration immediately.

[Later]

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have been requested to ask, on behalf of the pages, if you have considered their petition.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I have considered it very seriously. Reluctantly, because we have others waiting patiently to come in, I must say we have to abide by the original terms and conditions.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors of Burlington, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law to the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools. They are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right.

"Furthermore, in a democratic and multicultural society, parents should have the right to send their children to schools of their choice without a financial penalty.

"We ask for your help in reducing the unfair burden of what in effect is double taxation. We seek a just public education policy that supports all schools deemed to be operating in the public interest."

MOTION

ESTIMATES TIMETABLE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just before I make this motion, I would like to indicate, as honourable members will see, the time allocation for the estimates is now printed in Orders and Notices as required under standing order 45(b) and as has been agreed to by the House leaders.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding any previous order of the House, the estimates as they are presented to the House be referred to the committees as indicated in the estimates statement tabled and printed today; that the supplementary estimates as they are tabled in the House be referred to the same committees to which the main estimates have been referred for consideration within the times already allocated to the main estimates, and that any order for concurrence in supplementary supply be included in the order for concurrence in supply for that ministry.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, first reading of Bill 40, Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this act establishes the public right to access to recorded information held by government bodies, subject only to specific exemptions. It also controls the disclosure of personal information by government bodies and establishes the right of individuals to see and obtain corrections to personal information relating to them that is held by government bodies.

Refusal to give access to make corrections may be investigated and reviewed by the Ombudsman, who is also given the duty of investigating and reviewing the handling of recorded personal information by individuals and organizations in the private sector.

3:10 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to questions 2 to 88, 118 to 146,

176 to 233, 235 and 262 to 274 in Orders and Notices and the response to a petition presented to the Legislature, sessional paper 58 [see appendix, page 879].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr. Laughren moved, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, resolution 6:

That this House, recognizing that the province's forest lands require detailed classification, complete regeneration treatment after harvest and diligent tending of new growth, and further recognizing that these measures require a substantial financial commitment and a similar commitment of human resources in the field, requests the government to make a statutory commitment to sustained yield forest management to ensure that at least two trees are planted for every one harvested and that every acre harvested be regenerated.

Mr. Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation. He may reserve any portion of that time for the windup.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I shall attempt to leave a little time to wind up at the end unless I get carried away with my own eloquence, in which case I may run out of time.

This resolution is truly an inspired resolution. I would not want to claim I generated it or that it was my own inspiration to bring this resolution forward. The inspiration for this resolution came from none other than the Premier (Mr. Davis) when he issued his famous Brampton charter in 1977. Strangely enough, it was on the eve of the provincial election. I will speak more about that later.

During the last year or so, although previously to that too, this party made a very valiant effort to show its commitment to regenerating Ontario's forests. We did that in a number of ways. We appointed a task force of this caucus to attempt to learn more about our forests. We travelled widely in the province and we published a final report at the end of our work. On that task force I very much appreciated the assistance of a number of members of caucus, in particular the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Rae), who worked very hard and visited a lot of communities with the task force.

Also, during the last year we tried to make the regeneration of our forests an issue during the estimates debates, with questions during ques-

tion periods and written questions in Orders and Notices and through a considerable amount of correspondence with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We have been trying consistently and persistently to make forestry an issue in the province.

I say "in the province" because it is not only a northern Ontario issue; it is a province-wide issue. Those who understand it know that six out of 10 jobs in forestry in this province are in southern, not northern, Ontario. That is why I regard forestry as an issue of province-wide importance. It is not an issue that must be considered only by northern members or ministers or even by the Ministry of Natural Resources. We believe the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) does not pay nearly enough attention to forestry. The Premier has never paid much attention to forestry as an issue in this province either. This makes it very difficult for any Minister of Natural Resources to have adequate clout in cabinet when it comes to making forestry a priority in Ontario. That is terribly important.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the member for Lake Nipigon for the work he has done over the years in forestry. He has been the most persistent voice in this chamber on the need to regenerate our forests.

The government's response has been rather strange. I do not believe the minister did himself proud with his response of accusing this party of misleading people by the way we used information, despite the fact we received our information entirely from the Ministry of Natural Resources in the format we requested and in the format the Ministry of Natural Resources gave it to us, using the language the ministry has used for years. So I was not very pleased with the response of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope).

Not only that, in the midst of our task force deliberations, we were refused information that had previously been readily available to us. That is not a responsible response to what I would regard as the responsible role of an opposition party to raise these very important issues in this chamber and outside it.

The ministry has made some strides in the last couple of years. I am the first to admit that. For example, the commitment has been made to plant more trees. The figures I have obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources—and I hope it will not contradict its own figures again—indicate it is going from planting 130 million seedlings in 1983 to 200 million by 1986. That is a major increase in the number of seedlings to be planted.

There is a commitment to put more money into forest management. This is where the public sector becomes involved. We have gone from \$43 million for forest management in 1977-78 to \$134 million in 1983-84. Those are annual figures and they are going up.

We on this side understand that the government is putting more money into forestry than it has in the past. We have never denied that. We know why. It is because the government has finally come to understand there is a problem and it simply must subsidize the private sector yet again to make sure we have regenerated forests for the generations to come.

I am the first to admit there is more going on now in forestry on the part of the government than there has been in the past; however, we cannot erase from our minds the problems of the past. We are worried that this minister is not as open as we think he should be when it comes to forestry. When we seek information, it is either promised and not delivered or it is refused. That has happened on more than one occasion. Reports are done within the ministry and they are not released, despite the fact they are paid for with public funds. They are reports that deal with a public resource on public land, but the minister will not release those reports.

In spite of all the money being spent now, we still have a secretive ministry and a minister with what I like to call a bunker mentality. That is why I had to look elsewhere than the ministry and the minister for my inspiration to bring forth this resolution.

I have with me today a copy of A Charter for Ontario. This is not an ordinary copy of the charter. This is a personally autographed one. It says, "Best wishes, Graham. Bill Davis." Graham is a very dedicated research person whose full name is Graham Murray. He works in our research group. He was kind enough to lend me this charter.

In item 7 the charter makes a commitment to replacing at least two trees for every one harvested henceforth in Ontario and to regenerating every acre harvested.

That is a copy of A Charter for Ontario, personally autographed by the Premier himself, William Grenville Davis.

3:20 p.m.

If the Premier had made that promise at any time other than on the eve of an election, it might have been an honest commitment. But we know now that certainly was not an honest commitment. The government has revoked that commitment since then. Instead of making that promise,

he should have made a promise to make sustained yield a statutory requirement in Ontario. That is what should have been done, and not this kind of nonsense on the eve of an election.

The resolution we are debating today contains a number of important ingredients. First, it requires detailed classification of forest land. In our opinion, we should know more about our forest lands, what can grow on them, how to harvest them, the kind of machinery to be used, what tending is required, the best method of cutting (clear-cut or strip cutting), the best regeneration method (artificial or natural) and the most appropriate tending method.

At present there is inadequate classification of our forest lands in Ontario, and that is why it is included in this resolution. We see a tremendous opportunity for a northern Ontario forestry research centre to do much of this work. That was one of the final recommendations of our task force report.

The second important ingredient is that it requires complete regeneration treatment after harvesting and diligent tending of growth. That would be a result of our resolution. The forestry industry has always known how to cut trees, but it has been considerably less efficient at regenerating them. We believe there should be fewer clear-cuts and more strip cutting to allow for natural regeneration. We are alarmed at what we believe is out there in our second forest, and we do not believe the ministry knows very much about the second forest either.

Professional foresters from both the private sector and government expressed a number of concerns to us as we travelled across the province. Some of their major concerns were the tendency of less desirable species to take over from desirable species after the initial harvest, hardwood competition suppressing conifers and the increased number of balsam fir stands in the second forest because the more balsam fir there is, the greater the likelihood of a spruce budworm infestation.

They expressed concern over lower yields per acre the second time around except for the most productive of sites and said there was little evidence of reduced rotation periods except again on the most productive sites. They were also concerned about the absence of detailed knowledge of specific sites and said there was no noticeable commitment to increase the numbers of on-the-ground professional foresters and forest technicians.

They said there was an increased dependence on chemical suppression technologies at the

expense of nonsilvicultural techniques. They were concerned about the shortage of money to support intensive forest management and the silviculture assessment system which provides an inflated estimate of how successfully we have generated areas previously cut.

Those were some of the major concerns the professional foresters expressed to us as we travelled across the province. We know it is a difficult task growing a merchantable second forest. We know the difficulty of growing one with a yield necessary to make harvesting economical and one with the desired species growing to maturity. I am sure that is terribly important.

We believe our forests must be more intensively cultivated, but we do not believe this should be done only by applying massive doses of herbicide sprays. We believe that with more careful site preparation and larger seedlings planted, the amount of spraying can be kept to a minimum. In other words, we believe the goal should be to spray as little as possible.

One reason our forests have not been properly regenerated is that we have not had an adequate number of foresters in the forests actually managing, planning, planting, tending and monitoring the second forest. The member for Lake Nipigon has spoken long and loudly about that over the years. That is a terribly important issue. We say it is time to move some of those foresters out into the trenches. They know what to do and how to do it. What is more, they care very much about our forests.

The third important part of this resolution is the commitment to make sustained yield a statutory requirement in Ontario. We must be absolutely certain that our laws prevent the mistakes of the past from happening in the future. We have seen the figures on regeneration; we have argued over them with the minister. We have seen the early figures for the areas covered by the forest management agreements, and we are not impressed by them either.

I must emphasize that we are at the mercy of the Ministry of Natural Resources when examining the regeneration numbers. We have no other source of province-wide data. If the ministry withholds or plays games with the numbers, there is little we can do. I remind the minister, however, that he and his former deputy have both made public statements about having an informed debate on forestry. Their deeds have not matched their words. I must say we get garbled messages.

Earlier this year, Mr. Ken Armson spoke to the Canadian Lumbermen's Association in Montreal. Mr. Ken Armson, as members may know, is Ontario's head forester. He had this to say: "Ontario does not have a wood supply crisis, nor in fact is there a serious prospect that a supply crisis will emerge within the foreseeable future."

He went on to say: "The term 'wood supply' is a loosely defined term and a much misunderstood concept. It involves a host of physical, biological, social and economic factors. In Ontario, we prefer to talk in terms of 'available wood supply.' This refers to a modification of the physical or biological 'annual allowable cut' which has been reduced to account for expected depletions due to fire, insects and disease, areas and volumes which are deemed 'inoperable' due to extreme slope, low-volume acreage, excessive rock, etc."

Then Mr. Armson said:

"The conifer wood supply situation in the year 2000 is expected to be tight, with no room for expansion, but the situation is certainly manageable. Poplar and white birch will continue in large surplus well beyond the year 2000. Tolerant hardwoods are expected to continue in surplus well beyond 2000, but the present local shortages of high-quality logs will continually worsen."

On the one hand, the conifer wood supply will be tight, with no room for expansion, and local shortages of high-quality logs will continue, but on the other hand, we have no wood supply crisis. It is very strange. When I say we are getting garbled messages, that is exactly what I mean.

As though that were not enough of a contradiction, we have the government's own forest production policy—of 1972, I might add—which indicated the wood requirements would increase by about 50 per cent by the year 2020. In addition, the minister stated in November 1983 that the Ministry of Natural Resources was only at 63 per cent of its projected target on artificial regeneration.

We have no problem now or in the future, but we have no room for expansion, the conifer wood supply is tight, there is a shortage of quality sawlogs and, on top of all that, the official forest production policy is for a massive increase in wood requirements. That is an official policy of this government.

I should remind members that that forest production policy goes back to 1972, so it is quite possibly out of date, but the minister will not bring in his new policy, even though he promised

to have it before us, and in layman's language, a year ago. We have yet to see that.

What is bothering the minister? Why will he not bring forth that new forest production policy? The minister once again has had done at public expense a report which he refuses to release. He also has not released the wood utilization report, which we know he has had since July 1982. He will soon have had that for two years, and he will not release that either.

I will stop now and urge members to support this resolution because of its commitment to sustained yield and because it is merely reinforcing the very words of the Premier.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the government party, I have always taken a very keen interest in any constructive or positive suggestions the opposition party makes. I might say they are rare and few, as far as I am concerned.

I would have liked to have been able to support this resolution that my friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has brought forth. However, I cannot support it because in my mind it is a step backwards, not forward. We are already doing more for the forest industry than this resolution provides for.

Mr. Martel: Who wrote this speech for you?

Mr. Lane: I wrote it myself.

I do not think we should tie ourselves to legislation that would have us doing less in the Ontario forest management program than we are now doing.

3:30 p.m.

I believe the leader of the New Democratic Party has publicly stated that the Ministry of Natural Resources has a policy of planting two trees for each tree cut. As I recall it, his concern was the number of seedlings that will eventually grow into full trees. Perhaps, to be consistent with his leader's thinking, the member for Nickel Belt should have brought forward a resolution dealing with seedlings.

However, this is not necessary either, because the government has already expended significant effort to develop high-quality seedlings. In fact, the government of Ontario already has a comprehensive set of policies, programs and agreements in place that ensures good forest management in Ontario.

I believe the honourable member found this out when he travelled through the north last year with the task force his party set up. As a matter of fact, I was quite disappointed at the last set of estimates for the Ministry of Natural Resources

when so much effort was made to set aside time to talk about what the task force had found out and, when the time came, there did not seem to be anything to talk about. It was just bare bones; there was nothing to talk about.

To be fair, as I always am, I know the member for Nickel Belt does have a sincere interest in forest management. This being the case, he should appreciate the government's approach, which recognizes all the various needs of the forest and its users. I take some exception to the remarks the member for Nickel Belt made regarding the minister's ability to understand the needs of the forest. I think this minister has done more for forestry in Ontario than any other person.

The object of the Ontario forest management program is to ensure the continuation of a healthy, plentiful forest that will continue to serve the needs of this province and its citizens and of Ontario's forest industry. Through such things as land use guidelines, forest fire management, research programs and forest management agreements, the government of Ontario is protecting, maintaining and renewing our great forested lands.

Through the forest management program now in place, the Ontario government is helping to ensure that the one-industry towns that depend so heavily on forestry will continue to exist and thrive well into the next century. I am thinking of towns such as Chapleau, Hearst and Espanola, where the entire population directly or indirectly depends on the forest for a living.

In fact, more than 50 per cent of northern Ontario's economic activity depends on forestry. In northwestern Ontario more than 75 per cent of the economy is linked to the forest industry. This translates into direct employment for 80,000 people in Ontario and indirect employment for as many as 80,000 more. That is 160,000 jobs in Ontario that are reliant on the forest industry.

Furthermore, this government must also consider the enjoyment this province's forest brings to many hikers and campers who take advantage of Ontario's large network of provincial parks and trails.

Forest management in Ontario requires a comprehensive approach that addresses all aspects of forestry: the entire cycle from harvesting to regenerating and to harvesting all over again.

I am pleased to remind this House, however, that the forest management program now in place under the auspices of the Minister of Natural Resources will have lasting and significant

effects. In fact, it is one of the most advanced forest management programs in Canada.

Through forest management agreements signed between the government of Ontario and the forestry companies, the government has established an innovative way of protecting Ontario's forest. Each agreement requires a forest company working in co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources to treat, regenerate and tend areas where cutting operations have occurred.

If I were going to be critical at all of this area, it would be to say that there do not seem to be enough people following up those operations to clean up the tops and make firewood out of what is now being wasted. If I had some criticism to offer, that would be where I would offer it.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the woodlands improvement program, which many people seem to be unaware of even though it has been around for a long time. More of our farmers, especially in the north, should make use of this very worthwhile program, which requires an agreement between the farmer and the Ministry of Natural Resources for 15 years of sound woodlot management.

As I understand the program, the farmer must set aside at least five acres of trees. I am sure the member for Nickel Belt is aware of many acres in his riding that are growing nothing but weeds. I am sure in the great riding of Algoma-Manitoulin, which it is my pleasure to represent, there are many acres of privately owned vacant land that should be planted with trees. This woodlands improvement program provides that opportunity.

I know there are more than 10,000 such agreements in place in this province now. I know of at least one situation where a farmer has 50 acres planted in trees, mostly in white pine. Also, this farmer is thinning another 50-acre stand marked by Ministry of Natural Resources officials.

Mr. Stokes: We will be able to go back and harvest it in 80 or 100 years, will we not?

Mr. Lane: We do not have to wait that long any more. We can grow trees a lot faster than that.

To make it even more attractive and interesting to farmers, they are entitled to a 60 per cent property tax rebate on woodlands improvement project land. As I understand the program, the farmer pays for the trees, the Ministry of Natural Resources plants them and provides the management advice. It is a very excellent program.

As a matter of fact, I would like to point out that under this program, 43,000 seedlings will be

planted on Manitoulin Island in the next few weeks. Later in July, approximately 75,000 jackpine trees, which are grown in small paper pots, are also scheduled for planting. Around the Massey area, in my riding, approximately 162,000 nursery seedlings will be planted, and approximately 16,000 of these are on privately owned land. I think it is important that we recognize the potential that privately owned woodlands play in the future need for wood supplies.

Going back 30 years ago, when I was living on the farm full time, I and most of my fellow farmers used to harvest a number of cords of pulpwood each year. The amount varied from 25 to 50 cords per farmer, depending on the acreage a farmer had and how much energy he had to produce the wood. I might say to my friends across the way that there were no chainsaws then, so we had to cut it all with a swedesaw or bucksaw.

This, of course, was done on a selective cutting basis by myself and other owners because we needed the money from producing that timber. I owned approximately 800 acres at that time, and I continued to produce wood off it each year. I sold that land 25 years ago, and there has not been a stick of wood produced off it since. So there are all kinds of opportunities to put that kind of land into proper production.

Mr. Martel: Ah!

Mr. Lane: The member for Sudbury East says, "Ah." He knows darned well there are all kinds of acreage throughout the north that should be planted with new trees. This program provides for that. As I say, it gives the farmer a 60 per cent return on his property tax. It is an excellent program, and for that reason I am trying to interest all the farmers I can in this woodlands improvement program. As much as I would like to support the resolution from across the way, I am not able to for those reasons.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the position taken by the previous speaker on this subject, because after all a resolution like this gives every legislator an opportunity to rise and express what is a very real concern about the future of one of the most important industries in this province. To simply dismiss the resolution in a cavalier way and say, "We are doing better than that, so this resolution is not important," misses the point the member for Nickel Belt was trying to make with the resolution as it was presented.

I know we could enter into a debate this afternoon as to whether the government is doing

better than two trees for one and so on. The fact is that we know the forest industry has a problem down the road. That is generally accepted. We know that unless we turn that around rather immediately, the problem will be extremely serious, and the forest industry no longer will take the prominent place in the economy of Ontario that it has taken to this time.

3:40 p.m.

I suggest in the strongest possible terms to every member in this Legislature, regardless of the side of the House he or she is sitting on, that consideration be given to addressing the spirit of this resolution. After all, it does say one fundamental thing and points to one very fundamental objective; that is the objective of sustained-yield forest management. This is something we cannot avoid.

I could have said the resolution did not contain some very critical and important elements, but rather than criticize the resolution I would like to address those for a couple of minutes. They are complementary to the spirit of this resolution.

The wasteful cutting practices report mentioned by the member for Nickel Belt has been on the minister's desk since July 1982. Perhaps the minister in his response this afternoon will give us some indication that he will table this report on wasteful cutting practices and not have us go on believing the kind of paltry little slaps on the wrist that were given to various wasters in the forest industry in the past is going on now. I hope he will stop being so secretive.

We are concerned about the ministry's ad hockery when it comes to forest management. I know we have forest management agreements. I know we had two-for-one in the Brampton charter. The charter also said every acre harvested would be regenerated. I have heard the minister say in estimates that is impossible.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Did I say that is impossible?

Mr. J. A. Reed: Yes, I will find the quotation.

Hon. Mr. Pope: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The honourable member knows every acre harvested automatically regenerates. That is exactly what I was saying.

Mr. J. A. Reed: All right. I expect I am going to have to rise on a point of personal privilege at a later date to point out exactly the text and the context of the minister's statement when he said it was impossible.

I am concerned about a subject we have avoided for too long in this Legislature. It is something that is very immediate in the forest industry and that is the kill that appears to be

taking place. If anyone is driving from Sudbury to Toronto, he can now drive through thousands of acres of various varieties of evergreens that are dying. If we go into the country in southern Ontario we will see stands of Ontario's own tree, the white pine, that are beginning to die back at the tips.

I wonder what the government is doing beyond monitoring the death of these large areas. Have they come to a conclusion about what is causing something that appears to be an imminent tragedy in various areas?

Some of the minister's own officials have indicated to me that the kill of various species is due to a combination of circumstances, not the least of which may be acid rain. If European research is to be looked at, it suggests acid rain is releasing some heavy metals into the environment around the trees which are being taken up through the tree roots.

I wonder what handle the ministry has on that. It seems to me the potential for disaster is very much with us.

We are still losing land to regeneration. In other words, we are still in a negative situation. We still have not come to grips with the huge clear-cut areas lying unregenerated. We are still not addressing that 30 per cent, as has been pointed out, of the regenerable area that is covered over with slash and forest waste and cannot be regenerated until that is removed.

This matter is serious. We can talk all we like about forest management agreements and more intensive planting of seedlings and so on, but I doubt very much whether we have really come to grips with the key to the problem. We are still rearranging our priorities as issues arise.

We came to this Legislature with much-heralded guidelines on land use last year. The ink was barely dry when we began to jockey that around. We have now made an agreement regarding Brightsand waterway candidate park area which would remove some 11,000 acres from that waterway park.

At the same time, the minister has said the prospect for the availability of wood supply has led the ministry to conclude the situation is fully manageable. It is this sort of contradictory approach to forest management, coupled with the secretive nature of the operations of the Ministry of Natural Resources, that causes this party the greatest concern.

If I can get a message to the minister today, it would be that if he is going to have credibility in the future and maintain whatever credibility he may have now, he has to make his position more

consistent and abandon this policy of secretiveness that is causing such concern among the opposition, among foresters and among the people of Ontario. It will eventually cause equal concern in the forest industry itself, when the prospects of future supplies may well look grim indeed.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, my purpose in getting involved in this debate this afternoon is not to point a finger at the minister or the ministry for doing nothing. What I want to do is highlight the need to recognize the state of the art in proper forest management.

As somebody mentioned, 75 per cent of all the economic activity in northwestern Ontario is directly dependent on and related to our ability to manage our forest resources well. It is our very lifeblood. Since the Armson report in 1976, it has been made abundantly clear there is a need for a reversal of what has gone on before; that is, for every three acres harvested, one was artificially regenerated, one was left alone, and it was hoped one would be naturally regenerated.

I do not have to trot out the figures, but the minister knows of the thousands upon thousands of acres of backlog that have been left to their own devices. The minister just mentioned, in response to a comment by the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. J. A. Reed), that every acre is automatically regenerated. We know that, but he knows what comes up if it is left to its own devices.

3:50 p.m.

One might have the weed species or one might have the alder—the minister shakes his head. If he believes all one has to be is cut down trees, whether it is clear-cutting, block-cutting or strip-cutting, and just go away and forget about it for the next rotation of 80 to 100 years, he is even more naive than I would give him credit for.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) said he could not support this resolution because they are doing more than is called for. This is the most motherhood resolution I have ever seen. I do not know how anyone could object to it.

We are asking for detailed classification and inventory of the land base, complete regeneration treatment after harvest and diligent tending of new growth, a substantial financial commitment along with a commitment to dedicate sufficient human resources in order to manage it properly under the forest management agreement, to regenerate areas by planting two trees where every one was cut and that every acre harvested be regenerated.

I am not absolutely certain we could fit the bill with regard to the final one, because with mechanical harvesting the way we have it today, on a clear-cut basis, with no regard for what the net result will be, we have a lot of very shallow sites throughout the province. If you did it by mechanical harvesting, as opposed to harvesting with a bucksaw and a few horses, there are a lot of areas in the province that would not regenerate for the next 300 or 400 years.

If the member for Algoma-Manitoulin or the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) do not realize that, they should just go to where we are harvesting at the present time and listen to their own professional foresters. Listen to the foresters who are employed by the industry, and if they think every area we are cutting in Ontario can be satisfactorily regenerated to a prime species, they are even more naive than I think they are.

My colleague quoted from a speech Ken Armson gave to people in Montreal. He said: "There is really no problem. It is within manageable limits. We will have sufficient fibre, but it may not be of the quality or the proper species to look after our total needs."

We visited Hearst and talked to those sawmill operators and asked them what were the medium- and long-term prospects for those industries. They told us they think they could manage their needs for sawlogs over the next six to seven years. After that, unless they got a new source of supply, they were going to be in a real bind.

The same thing ultimately is going to happen to those producers of lumber in the Chapleau and Dubreuilville areas. The same thing is going to be the case with regard to Great West Timber and the Buchanan interests in northwestern Ontario, because they cannot go in and use the hardwoods in the traditional sense, for dimensional lumber for the building industry. Anyone knows that.

There is no need to ship prime sawlogs to pulp and paper mills and have them ground up when we could have a sharing of timber, so we could get the maximum bang for our buck by a rationalization of the total fibre available. Sawmills need sawlogs. Pulp and paper mills need fibre; it does not have to be in the form of roundwood.

If the minister stood at the junction of Highways 11 and 17 he would see the number of tree-length and eight-foot logs which are going every which way, simply because there is no rationalization—everything is based on licence limits that were awarded to the company some decades ago—and he would see the residue from the sawmills going every which way. There is

absolutely no rationalization even with regard to accessing.

I can take the members to an area around Kopka Lake that was the subject of great debate here not long ago. If you fly over it, you see government-funded roads on the Domtar limits, on the Abitibi-Price limits and on the Great Lakes Forest Products limits, all going in the same general area. It costs a fortune to provide access. There is no rationalization at all.

There is no reason why the superintendents of woodlands operations of those three companies could not have got together and said, "We are going to have to access that same general area so let us do it in a sane, rational and economical way." That has never been done.

It has never been done with regard to proper sharing of the fibre so we can make maximum use of the forests themselves. The minister has been trying to get a wood utilization direction from his minions and his ministry for two or three years with the greatest of difficulty. He has not come out with one yet. I do not blame him. I think it is the boondoggle of the people he has been depending on for expert advice as to the maximization of the social and economic benefits of our forests.

The minister is going to have to stiffen his back and say to his deputy minister, his assistant deputy ministers and the Armsons of this world, "Come on, tell it like it is," because he is the fellow who is going to have to carry the can. I am not suggesting this minister has been sitting idly by and doing nothing. He has probably done more in his relatively short tenure than any other minister I have had to deal with over the past 17 years, but maintaining the status quo is not good enough.

I think the minister has a report. I do not know what it says, but I happen to know the author and if the author told him what he saw, as I am sure he did, the minister must be concerned. The minister has told me privately he is going to sit down and talk about that report with the people who are charged with the responsibility of advising the minister.

If the minister is going to get the maximum use of our forestry resources for the benefit of all the people of Ontario, and if he is going to get maximum benefit from the human resources he has in his ministry, whether they be researchers, whether they be paper pushers behind a desk, or whether they are monitoring and auditing what is going on with regard to the forest management agreements, the only way he is going to do it is by a total commitment to regeneration in every

detail as outlined in this resolution by my colleague. Anyone who objects to this resolution is simply not in tune with the situation in our forests today.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak against the private member's resolution of the member for Nickel Belt for the following reasons.

Mr. Martel: Of course.

Mr. McClellan: You are opposed to reforestation.

Mr. Stokes: You are opposed to it because you do not know anything about it. Running a newspaper is a lot different from running our forests.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Just ignore the interjections.

Mr. Piché: I would like to answer the member. I said "for the following reasons," and he did not give me a chance to say anything before he said I did not know what I was talking about.

Mr. Stokes: I have heard those speeches for the last 17 years.

Mr. Piché: The member has not heard this one because I have not delivered it yet.

Mr. Stokes: I can even tell you who the author is.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, if you excuse that member, I think the House will agree with you.

I have no doubt the Minister of Natural Resources is providing expert care and management for Ontario's forests through regeneration and research. We all know how important Ontario's forests are. They are the cornerstone of our northern economy. They provide jobs, security and enjoyment.

4 p.m.

Our forest industry provides direct employment for 80,000 people. It is the very lifeblood of many of our northern communities. These are facts, and I am sure all the members of this House are aware of these facts and accept them. However, there appear to be some who do not accept the fact that the Minister of Natural Resources is taking every step possible to protect and manage our vital forest resources wisely and competently.

The ministry's reforestation effort is just one example of this wise management. In 1983 the ministry spent \$65 million on reforestation, \$14 million on site preparation and \$11 million on planting and seeding. The ministry's overall forest resources budget has almost tripled over

the last six years, from \$52 million in 1978-79 to \$162 million in 1984-85.

In the last 10 years Ontario's forest revenues have increased threefold, from \$18 million to \$53 million. In the same period the ministry's reinvestment in forestry increased fivefold, from \$44 million to \$227 million. Of course, much of this positive action is a direct result of the forest management agreements negotiated between the province and the forest companies. In February of this year the Minister of Natural Resources signed a new agreement with Dubreuil Brothers for a forest north of Sault Ste. Marie. In April he signed three new agreements with Boise Cascade Canada Ltd. in Kenora, bringing the total number signed by the province to 21.

The Boise Cascade agreements were especially significant because they meant all that company's timber operations are now covered by forest management agreements. Boise Cascade is the third major forest company in Ontario to sign FMAs covering all its timber operations. Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd. and E. B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd. have also signed FMAs covering all of their licensed operations.

I am sure this House is fully aware of the value of FMAs to Ontario. They represent a truly co-operative arrangement that allows the industry to play a much more active role in the management and renewal of the forests that benefit them directly. Each FMA requires the agreement holder to treat our vested areas according to the silvicultural specification in the agreement and to treat unsatisfactory areas at a specific rate.

Forest companies accept the responsibility for forest management practices such as road construction, harvesting and tending. The Ministry of Natural Resources, with assistance from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, provides subsidies for forest access roads and funding for silvicultural work. The end result is better forest management with commitments and co-operation from both government and industry.

By next year the Ministry of Natural Resources hopes to have 30 FMAs in place covering most of the forest operations on currently licensed crown land in Ontario. The government of Ontario will have spent about \$90 million on these arrangements by that time. It is an important investment and a necessary investment for the future. Ontario's forests are vital to a strong provincial economy. FMAs create jobs today and protect forestry jobs of the future by

protecting our forests and providing for their renewal.

The increase in the number of trees being planted is worthy of mention here, for the statistics are truly impressive. As the members may know, the ministry planted 80 million trees in 1982. In 1983 that figure jumped by 27 million to a total of 107 million trees planted. This year it is up an additional 20 million to 127 million trees. By 1987 Ontario will be planting some 200 million trees a year. If that rate were to be sustained for just five years, we would be planting one billion trees in this province by 1992.

How has this phenomenal increase been possible? The government has gone to the private sector for the additional capacity that was needed as a result of forest management agreements. The ministry has signed contracts with 20 private growers throughout northern Ontario for container tree-seedling production. The resulting rate of expansion of Ontario's forest renewal capacity has been tremendous. In 1981 the output from private greenhouses was zero, in 1982 it was five million trees, last year it was 25 million and this year it will be more than 63 million. renewal capacity has been tremendous. In 1981 the output from private greenhouses was zero, in 1982 it was five million trees, last year it was 25 million and this year it will be more than 63 million.

In my own area, which lies within the ministry's northern region, the number of trees being planted this year is more than 50 million, up more than seven million from 1983. These statistics not only prove the value of forest management agreements to forest renewal, but also show that the Minister of Natural Resources is committed to careful and intelligent forest management.

The expansion of tree seedling production has not only enabled the ministry to ensure a greater degree of forest renewal, but has also created jobs throughout northern Ontario, providing related benefits for the people of Ontario both now and in the future.

Members know that producing the seedlings and putting them in the ground is not enough; they have to survive if they are truly to benefit future generations. In this area I am pleased to note that Ontario's regeneration success rates compare favourably with those of other jurisdictions. Last year the survival rate of our major forest species was 80 to 95 per cent. Much of this can be directly attributed to the expertise and

dedication of the ministry staff, including the minister himself.

Ontario has two foresters and 5.25 forest technicians for every one million acres of productive forest. That works out to one forest professional for every 138,000 acres of crown and productive private woodlands.

Our outstanding forest management programs are the envy of many jurisdictions. At the 75th annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Sault Ste. Marie last fall a resolution was passed congratulating the Premier of Ontario for this province's lead role in forest management in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Piché: In closing, I think Ontario's vital forest wealth is receiving the kind of excellent management—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Piché: —to which the people of this province have become accustomed.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, but I see my time is up.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) on his glowing report of the successes of the ministry. The figures probably have as much meaning for me as a southern Ontario farmer as they do for the honourable member as a newspaper owner from Kapuskasing. The connection, I think, is that probably he is doing more to use up the pulp trees in the publication of the Kapuskasing Bugle than he is doing to assist in the reforestation of our forests.

4:10 p.m.

One of the interesting statistics I read recently is that, for every five pages of newsprint used in the world, two of them come from Canada. We are using our wood resources at an astonishingly high rate as the requirements, particularly for pulp and paper, grow worldwide. It has made for us a very lucrative export product.

When we read those reports from time to time we see, because of the good fiscal management of the government of Canada, our export trade balance is very much in our favour. A good deal of that can be traced to the sale of our trees from northern Ontario in the form of newsprint to the huge consumers in New York, Chicago and other American centres.

The honourable member was talking about reforestation in the millions and it is clear it is still inadequate. I congratulate the member for Nickel Belt for bringing forward the resolution. We in

this party are going to support it enthusiastically. It would seem almost incredible that the Progressive Conservative Party would stand in the way of such a vote, as proud as they are of their accomplishments, according to the member for Cochrane North. If we all stood together and made a commitment to improve our effort in reforestation, which, according to the member for Cochrane North, is already quite good, then I think we could all pat ourselves on the back.

A resolution in this House by itself does little more than use up a little more fibre as we print it in Orders and Notices and send out the copies of Hansard to our mothers, fathers-in-law and other people interested in these great speeches.

I have a bit of advice for the minister. He should be here and he is here. I look forward to his taking part in the debate in a few minutes, or has he already spoken?

Mr. Ruston: No, he has not.

Mr. Nixon: I was not here for the whole thing.

I have a bit of advice for the minister because I can tell from the way he follows the action in question period and from what I hear from my Tory friends he considers himself upwardly mobile politically. I think he has set his sights considerably higher than trying to be a provincial judge in the north or one of those things. There is no doubt he is an attractive man with a good education. He has his temper under a little bit better control than he had a couple of years ago, although one can never tell with these fellows. The front runners in the Tory leadership are not doing as well as some of the back-benchers had expected, so the field is wide open.

We do not know what the future holds, but this time next year I would think there would be a leadership convention here. The minister could certainly do worse than get on the reforestation bandwagon in a big way. If the best way to push forward the efforts of his ministry are speeches like those of the member for Cochrane North, I do not think that is sexy enough to sell a leadership campaign.

Many of the members who were in the House some years ago may recall the furore right across Canada, but particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, when there was some thought there was going to be a lumbering operation in Quetico Park. As Leader of the Opposition at the time, I remember the meetings in downtown Toronto where the halls were crowded with citizens of Toronto who had probably never been to Quetico and have probably never been there since.

Mr. Stokes: Ethel Teitlebaum.

Mr. Nixon: Her Honour Judge Ethel Teitlebaum was the one who was leading it. She got a strong response.

When it comes to the maintenance and growth of our forest resources, the people of this province are very keenly in support. There is that feeling of pride in Ontario that this resource, probably our most valuable renewable resource, is something the government over the years has been profligate in its management of, if members will pardon that grammatical inversion.

Going back in the grand tradition of politics in this province, there has been the feeling the Progressive Conservative Party has not dealt in a fair and equitable way with the development of our forest resources. In years gone by we have had committees to look into charges that the government has rewarded its friends with very large special contracts and arrangements, enabling these resources to be harvested with very little supervision and, for many years with practically no reforestation.

A program the minister could enter into enthusiastically with the support of every member of this House would be well accepted in this jurisdiction. What is the sense of his being Minister of Natural Resources if he does not come forward with something innovative? The idea of forest management agreements is not innovative enough. We are told by the experts, including the member for Cochrane North, that those that have been established are working rather well. If we can get private enterprise to use their dollars to do a larger share of the reforestation, so much the better, but I have a feeling they do so without losing much money themselves.

It was interesting to note that Boise Cascade, which has many of its operations in Ontario, is reporting absolutely record profits on a world-wide basis. They are reporting profit levels that are absolutely astounding, in spite of difficulties with labour-management relations in this jurisdiction and elsewhere. Management evidently has been effective enough so it could produce its raw materials cheap and sell them dear in the markets of the world, particularly in the United States.

It could be that for the benefit of the public we in this province should be withdrawing more revenue from the utilization of these resources and turning it into the maintenance and expanding of the resources. We all know we have hundreds—in fact, thousands—of energetic young people just aching for a job in the forest development industry of this province. It has

been a long time since we could say to these young people, other than through Junior Rangers and similar programs, “We open this up to your energy and initiative.”

I would certainly hope the acceptance of this resolution would be such that the minister would be provided with a mandate from the House and from the Treasurer to go forward with a modern, effective program of reforestation.

As a member for southern Ontario, I want to end my remarks with a plea for stepping up these programs in the southern part of the province as well. We know there has been a considerable amount of research done on fast-growing poplar trees. There was some sort of program in eastern Ontario that was going to use up some of the properties bought by the poor judgement of the government some years ago. It was going to be an industrial site, but they decided to turn it into a poplar tree farm. We have not heard much about that, but we do know the research goes forward.

There are many hundreds of thousands of acres in southern Ontario which are not used for productive farming. It would be very wise leadership if this minister, through the conservation authorities or even directly—and frankly I would have just as much confidence if he did it directly through the manifestations of his own ministry—undertook a stepped-up reforestation program in southern Ontario.

The land and the will are there. To be fair, there are programs to assist small land holders to put a few trees on a few steep banks. I have even done that on our own farm. While I bought the trees, I appreciate that there will be assistance from the ministry as long as we keep the land in forest production. But I think we can certainly do more in southern Ontario as well as northern Ontario.

The minister has an opportunity to influence his colleagues to support this resolution which would give him a mandate to go forward with a program the province needs. It would not do him any harm either.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago I read Ken Armson's report and the great alarm he expressed. It is strange how quickly he has changed his attitude. I am amazed. This reminds me of Vern Singer. He changed his attitude almost totally over—

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Consistency.

Mr. Martel: Yes. The minister said a while ago we negotiated the forest management agreements with his predecessor. I might say we had an interesting discussion at that time. One of the things we thought was guaranteed was that we

were going to get all the facts all the time about things that were going on in Ontario.

4:20 p.m.

It is strange that as my colleagues tried to do the task force report, the figures the minister presented to us did not quite conform with the figures he has. Yet he will not produce the figures he is using. He runs around the country saying, "Their figures are wrong." Yet those are the minister's figures. It is funny the games that go on, is it not? But that was the agreement: we would get the information.

I am surprised this afternoon at those Tories, because those words are from none other than the Premier.

I can remember writing the former minister in that portfolio about Algonquin Park one year. I said, "We should at least be cutting one tree for one." He said to me, "From your remarks to me about reforestation it would appear that you are still looking for a relationship between the number of trees cut and the number of trees planted."

Obviously that was not good enough. The Premier went one further. He said in 1977, "We are going to plant two trees for each one cut." And when we came to that election, that was one of the promises. Now they are voting against it. When the bill came forward, I moved the Premier's amendment precisely as he had it worded. Today, as then, the Tories are going to vote against the Premier. They voted against him then.

We got an interesting letter that was prepared for the Minister of Natural Resources of the day; it was given to us by our good friend James Auld. It was signed by Walter J. Obelnycki, solicitor, legal services branch, with respect to two trees for one. I want to put this letter on the record again.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Which year was that?

Mr. Martel: It was 1979. We were talking about two trees for one. On the one hand, the government says we are doing better than two trees for one—the member from Algoma-Manitoulin said that today, that we are doing better than what is in here—yet when we talk about sustained yield, the government is opposed to sustained yield.

Let us see what they said about their Premier. It says here, "Firstly, this amendment"—the amendment I moved on behalf of the Premier, since no Tories had the courage to do it; I just took his amendment—"in effect, redefines 'sustained yield' to mean the planting of two trees for every tree harvested and regenerating every acre

that is harvested." That is what the Premier said, so I moved it on behalf of the Premier.

"This redefinition of 'sustained yield' conflicts with the definition of that expression as set out in subsection 2 of section 5a, namely, 'the growth of timber that a forest can produce and that can be cut to achieve a continuous approximate balance between the growth of timber and timber cut.' In our opinion, this conflict that is created by virtue of the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury East, must be eliminated."

But I moved it only on behalf of the Premier.

Mr. Lane: We can move our own amendments.

Mr. Martel: Well, the Premier said it. He said it "must be eliminated." So much for the Premier; those guys over there do not believe him.

I want to go to the second point of Mr. Obelnycki's letter, and I suspect the member for Algoma-Manitoulin knows him. He went on to say, "Secondly, we are advised that the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury East would severely restrict the reforestation effort in Ontario."

If we substitute the Premier's name for mine, what Mr. Obelnycki was saying with respect to the Premier's promise was, "Secondly, we are advised that the amendment proposed by the Premier would severely restrict the reforestation effort in Ontario." My God, I did not see any of those silly servants saying that when the Premier promised it.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Three for one now.

Mr. Martel: Wait a minute. It says that cannot be done either. I am coming to that. I am glad the minister said that. He should just stick around.

"The amendment provides, in part, that the yield is to be sustained on the basis that at least two trees are planted for every tree cut. This amendment restricts the method of obtaining regeneration to planting." Well, if you plant three trees it makes it worse, does it not?

Hon. Mr. Pope: No.

Mr. Martel: Oh, no.

"We are advised that regeneration is obtained by planting, seeding and silvicultural harvesting systems. The choice of method used to obtain regeneration in any particular case depends upon many factors such as the type of soil, the nature of the forest being harvested, the type of species to be regenerated and the objectives of management. It is reasonably clear that restricting the method of obtaining regeneration to planting

would severely inhibit the reforestation effort in Ontario."

The Premier must have been saying that then. That was his commitment. It was his amendment. My friend says no, and yet it is the Premier's amendment word for word. It is adopted right from the charter, right from the words of none other than the Premier.

Let me talk about point 3, and this is the best point of all.

"Thirdly, the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury East"—and we could put "Premier" there, because it is his—"also has implications that are simply absurd." That man is calling our Premier absurd, and I resent it. I really resent that Mr. Obelnycki would suggest the Premier was being absurd. I really resent it. The minister should fire him.

"The amendment states that the agreement shall provide 'that every acre harvested is regenerated.' The underlined word 'shall' means that this obligation is mandatory." That is what the Premier said. I just helped him along. The members opposite do not want to help him today and they did not want to help him then. Is the minister suggesting the Premier was out there going from town to town in that 1977 campaign trying to deceive the people of Ontario? That would not be the case, would it? What was he doing? I am just quoting. I am using the Premier's own amendment.

Mr. Lane: You are putting your interpretation on it.

Mr. Martel: There is no interpretation by me. I read it and the member has read it, and that is what the Premier had in the charter. My colleague quoted it word for word. The members cannot play around with it. That is what the Premier said. The members will not support him again this afternoon.

"However, we are advised that when a forest is harvested, about 10 to 15 per cent of its area is removed from forest production for haul roads, buildings and other permanent works. The foregoing mandatory provision would require a company to regenerate the area covered by such permanent works. A provision that leads to such absurdity should not, in our opinion, be legislated into law."

Can the members imagine that? The absurdity of the Premier. He wants to reforest all the trees. Perhaps the minister can tell me whether 15 per cent is coming out of production, where he is putting the three trees for one. I can suggest perhaps one place, but I am not sure it would be appropriate in here.

"Fourthly, our discussions with the administrators who negotiated with the forest industry in respect of the provisions of the current draft forest management agreement have indicated that they feel that, in virtue of the implications of the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury East, the forest industry will not desire to enter into a forest management agreement, if such amendment is legislated into law."

I put that on the record only because I have listened to the prattle from that minister. We negotiated the amendment which was going to provide us with all the facts the minister says now are confidential; he cannot give that information out. That is not what was agreed to in the negotiations with the late James Auld. If the minister now wants to hide and pretend that material is not available, that certainly was not what was agreed to. The minister does not have the guts to get up and provide all the facts. He hides behind it because we are busy subsidizing the industry to hell and back.

I want to tell the minister, the day is going to come when somebody in the press gallery is going to write about the Premier's promise and the types of letters supplied to us which say, "What you are suggesting is contradictory," when we are merely repeating the exact words used by the Premier, and the minister has not done much to help the matter.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Laughren: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt has two minutes left, I understand.

Mr. Laughren: After the minister.

Mr. Speaker: No. We are coming to the end.

Mr. Laughren: I thought I was the last speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You are the last speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Give it to the minister.

Mr. Laughren: I will give it to the minister, all right.

I appreciate the fact that the other members have spoken on this resolution. I simply want to ask the government members a couple of questions. If all is as well as they claim in the forest, let them answer this question: Why are we, the taxpayers of Ontario, putting in \$200 million a year to subsidize the reforestation of the forests? The forests are run by free enterprise companies, and we are subsidizing them with

\$200 million a year. That is the goal for reforestation, for forest management in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Pope: How much are they paying in taxes?

Mr. Laughren: Are they paying \$200 million?

Hon. Mr. Pope: They are paying \$600 million.

Mr. Laughren: I see. Is that going to be the rule out there? Will it be that they will just line up, and if they pay their taxes, they will get subsidies?

Hon. Mr. Pope: No.

Mr. Stokes: That is not so and the minister knows it.

Mr. Laughren: Is the minister saying we make money?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: If we had managed the forests, and it is this government's responsibility, on a sustained yield basis in the past there would not be the need to put \$200 million a year of taxpayers' money into forest management, because it is playing a catch-up game and the minister knows it. He should be ashamed of his record of reforestation in Ontario.

If all is so well with the forests, would he tell us why he will not release reports about the forests done by his officials? Why will he not make that information public? It is paid for by public dollars, but the government keeps the information to itself.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Mr. Havrot moved, seconded by Mr. Pollock, resolution 7:

That given the persuasive evidence that properly installed smoke detectors do help prevent tragic loss of life and property damage by providing occupants of a dwelling with an early warning in the case of fire, this House urges all municipalities which have not already done so to pass bylaws under the Planning Act to require that, regardless of their date of construction, all homes, apartments and such public buildings as hotels and motels be fitted with appropriate smoke detectors; and that the insurance industry encourage home owners to install smoke detectors by offering more attractive insurance rates to home owners who install smoke detectors on their property.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the honourable member that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation. He may reserve any portion of that time he wishes for a windup.

Mr. Havrot: Mr. Speaker, we react to announcements such as "Two Killed in Fire" or "Child Trapped in Blaze" with horror and regret but often nothing more. The intent of this regulation is to change this.

Fire prevention is not, as some would say, a politically sexy issue. Public attitudes towards fire precautions and safety are often complacent and lax. It is true the technicalities of fire safety can be mundane and less than exciting, but a failure of this House to address it for these reasons is an abdication of our responsibilities as members of this Legislature.

The government of Ontario has already taken major steps towards better fire safety and awareness. Most recently, the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) tabled the Report of the Public Inquiry into Fire Safety in Highrise Buildings. The recommendations arising from the inquiry deal with many fire-related issues that will most surely spark a vigorous and productive dialogue among legislators, fire safety agencies and the public. Inevitably, the actions arising out of Judge John B. Webber's report will contribute to increased fire safety and awareness in Ontario.

In addition, concrete legislative measures and actions have been taken by this government. The Ontario Building Code requires that all buildings constructed since 1976 be equipped with approved smoke detectors. The Ontario Fire Marshals Act requires that all buildings intended for the use of public assembly, as identified in the retrofit regulation of the act, be equipped with fire alarm and detection systems.

Further, the Ontario government has developed rigorous standards and recommendations for the use of smoke alarms in older residential buildings. While these are not law, Ontario municipalities are encouraged to incorporate the standards into their own bylaws and regulations.

Our responsibility extends much further. Legislation and resolutions alone will not decrease the incidence of fatal and destructive fires. Education and public awareness will. This resolution is one step towards increasing public awareness about fire safety. By urging municipalities to adopt bylaws that require smoke detectors in all buildings, and not just in those built since 1976, I hope we will be developing a greater awareness at the local level.

Significant press coverage has been generated in this regard. Our friends in the press gallery generally feel that more rigorous fire protection standards are a good thing. Some Ontario municipalities also agree that tougher regulations

and bylaws are in order. Kingston, Mississauga, Ottawa, London and Peterborough are among those municipalities that now have bylaws making smoke alarms mandatory in residences.

Kingston's smoke alarm bylaw is generally believed to be the most sweeping and comprehensive. The legislation stipulates that every dwelling must have a smoke alarm device. It also places the responsibility for purchase and installation on the occupants, whether they live in a single-family dwelling or in an apartment unit. In the case of individually rented rooms, the onus is on the owner of the building. Failure to comply with this bylaw could mean a fine of up to \$500.

The response to such bylaws has been both positive and encouraging. Fire inspectors claim mandatory use of smoke alarms has helped to save lives and minimize destructive property loss. What is sad is that it often takes a fatal fire to initiate action on such legislation.

The Kingston bylaw was prompted by a fire that killed a family of four. Perhaps these deaths could have been prevented had an adequate smoke alarm system been in place. If more Canadians were aware of the devastation and loss caused by fire in Canada, perhaps there also would be more interest in fire prevention and detection.

A National Research Council study estimates that the loss caused by fire is 1.5 per cent of the gross national product. This compares poorly with the European fire loss, estimated at one per cent of the gross national product. Members will agree this is not a record of which we should be proud. The statistics reveal a tragic waste of lives and property, made all the more tragic by the fact that many fires were preventable.

In 1981, a total of 227 Ontario citizens died as a result of fire. Of these, 112 were men, 73 were women and 42 were children. What an unnecessary loss of life. The statistics revealing property loss are just as staggering. In 1981, the total fire loss for Ontario was \$234 million. What a waste. Such a loss provides ample reason for the increased use of smoke alarms.

4:40 p.m.

Studies about the impact of smoke alarms on minimizing fire losses are still relatively few. However, there is a growing body of evidence to suggest that smoke alarms do save lives and decrease fire damage. A program undertaken by the Ontario Housing Corp. in 1974 shows ample evidence of a strong correlation between the effective use of smoke alarms and the increased safety of human lives and property. The program was undertaken as a result of a fatal fire that took

the lives of a family of six in a Metro Toronto OHC unit.

In 1974, the board of directors authorized the installation of smoke alarms in all units of its housing portfolio. Priority was given to single-family dwellings and those with limited egress. By the end of 1977, the main work was completed.

In 1978 the Ontario Housing Corp. undertook a study to determine the dividends of the program. The results were most impressive. During the period of 1975 to 1977 there were 64 fires reported in which smoke detectors were involved. In those fires, the smoke detector saved a possible 21 lives. Smoke alarms minimized property damage in 50 of those fires. In only five of them the smoke alarm was ineffective.

It is no mystery where and when these fires start. Of the 21 incidents where the smoke detector may have saved lives, 18 occurred when the occupant was asleep. Furthermore, 13 of these potentially fatal fires started in the bedroom; five started in the living room. Had the smoke alarm not been activated in these cases, the tenants may well have remained asleep and been asphyxiated. These are the conventional reasons why smoke alarms are so effective and worth while.

These results alone provide solid evidence why a concerted effort should be made to encourage municipalities to require smoke alarms in all residences. But this study provides even more evidence of the desirability of smoke alarms in dwellings.

Smoke alarms lead to early discovery of fires. In this same study it is estimated that 85 per cent of all fires were discovered by smoke alarms. Early detection such as this obviously minimizes the disastrous toll of fire on human lives and personal property.

Often smoke alarms alert parents to fires around children. We all know how enticing matches and fire can be to a small child. All too often a child becomes a victim of his own play. In 1981, 42 children died as a result of fires. In the Ontario Housing Corp. study alone, eight of the 21 potentially fatal fires were caused by children playing with fire.

Often smoke alarms can quickly discover potentially dangerous fires caused by children. This allows action to be taken before an unnecessary fatality occurs. Smoke alarms also encourage neighbours to team up in the fire detection process. In the OHC study, neighbours reported one quarter of all the fires that occurred.

In eight cases, the tenants were not home. In two others, neighbours saved the lives of individuals.

Co-operative action of this nature certainly testifies to the desirability of smoke alarms. If we can make more individuals, tenants and neighbours aware of the compound effect of smoke alarm devices, we will be one step further in educating the public about fire detection and prevention. If neighbours do not team up with each other in fire prevention, we will continue to have the unacceptably high fire losses of the past.

The benefits of smoke alarms can certainly not be in question. One can see there is ample evidence to suggest the desirability of smoke alarms in all dwellings and buildings. But all the evidence in the world is worthless if the public is not aware of it.

One of the main purposes of this resolution is to begin to generate increased public awareness about fire prevention and safety. Members have a responsibility to do this in their own constituencies. Through discussions with local leaders and constituents, they can help to raise the level of awareness.

The recently released Webber report will facilitate public dialogue on fire safety. By urging local municipalities to pass bylaws requiring smoke alarms in all residences, we will be encouraging public debate on the issue. We all know one of the best ways to get the public interested in something is to create an issue. A bylaw making the use of smoke alarms mandatory in all homes, apartments and public buildings will certainly do that.

Some individuals may balk at the cost of installing smoke alarms, but I am sure this will cease when they become aware of the dividends of smoke alarms. One need only point out that an adequate fire alarm costs between \$10 and \$15 and the 1981 per capita fire loss in Ontario was \$27.23. One can see it does not take much to prove the point.

If members and local municipalities can raise such a debate, I am confident public awareness about fire prevention and safety will rise. I am also confident our friends in the press will be most accommodating in conveying this sound message to their readership.

With increased knowledge about fire and smoke detection systems, I am confident more people will support municipal legislation requiring the use of fire alarms. Furthermore, I feel more individuals will ensure that smoke alarms are installed in their own places of residence and places of public assembly.

There are still many more ways individuals and organizations can be encouraged to install smoke alarm devices. Insurance companies are increasingly becoming aware of the advantages of smoke alarms. Through advertising, competitive policy rates and other avenues, they can become instrumental in promoting the use of smoke alarms in more buildings.

There is also an increasing feeling that people such as superintendents of apartment buildings should assume a larger role in fire prevention and detection. If such people were to become more aware of the effective use of smoke alarms in their buildings, we would likely see decreased fire risks in apartment dwellings.

I could go on at great length about the ways and means of increasing and improving public awareness about smoke alarms but time is running short and I would like to reserve some for the end of this debate in order to make some concluding remarks. Furthermore, I believe my colleagues will address many of the points I have only been able to touch upon due to time constraints.

The purpose of this resolution is to increase public awareness about the positive effects of smoke alarm systems in all buildings. I am confident all members of this House will recognize the worthiness of this resolution and support it. In so doing, we will be fulfilling our responsibilities as members of this Legislature.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak briefly in this debate. I am not even sure I can use the full totality of the 10 minutes as the issue is not a very complex one.

Mr. Wildman: It is all smoke and mirrors.

Mr. Boudria: The member for Algoma says, "It is all smoke and mirrors." I am not sure of the pun.

I wish we were discussing a bill instead of a resolution. I like bills much better. They seem to portray the full intention of what one intends to do far clearer than just a resolution. A resolution is merely a wish for what one wants, as opposed to being a specific law in this Legislature.

After listening to the speech from the honourable member, I am still not clear whether he is in favour of us adopting provincial legislation or whether he wants only to encourage municipalities to do this work for us. I am still not too clear on exactly what he wants with this resolution.

4:50 p.m.

I think all members would agree that all apartments, all homes, etc., should be equipped with proper alarms. As we know, it is not just an

issue of smoke alarms, there is a whole variety of equipment available. One of them is a heat sensor and that is a different issue.

I know of two different types of smoke alarms and there are possibly other types some members may speak of later. I understand one of them works on the principle of ionization. I forget what the other one does. In any case, they have different reactions depending on the type of situation in the home.

Several people have advocated that homes should have two alarms because of these different functions. Some alarms are more sensitive to a particular type of fire. There seems to be no end to where we will go with this type of thing; however, I am sure all members agree with the principle of having alarms in all buildings.

I do have one problem with the resolution and that has to do with retrofitting buildings. I personally approve of retrofitting public buildings such as hotels, motels and even apartment buildings, but I do have some difficulty when we start telling people they must retrofit their own homes for their own good. I wonder where this will stop. Are we going to get to a point where we will walk into someone's home and say, "We do not like your toaster and think you should replace it for your own good"?

My home was built after 1976 and already had an alarm, but I have installed two more. That was my own wish. I am confident three work better than just one. One works with electricity and the other two are battery operated. One acts as a backup to the other and I think there is some merit in having the system that way.

We are starting to seriously infringe on the liberty of people when we start telling them they must change their own homes. We are not talking about the building of a new house here; we are talking about retrofitting someone's personal dwelling. We are talking about sending a government inspector in to say someone has to retrofit his own home because we think it is in that person's own best interest.

No one quarrels with the fact that smoke alarms and all other alarms are quite valuable and provide something quite significant. I fully support the general thrust of the resolution but I do think we have to be careful with that small component of the resolution that says we are going to retrofit someone's existing place. I have had similar difficulties with other laws we have passed in the Legislature in the past, including the seatbelt law, for instance.

Mr. Wildman: Did you oppose that too?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I am opposed to it. That is only my own personal, individual view but I do not happen to like that type of law. I would have gone about it by saying seatbelts must be in public vehicles first and in individual vehicles later or not at all. However, we went the other way and that is neither here nor there now. We know that buses do not have seatbelts, yet individual automobiles do and I think we did that backwards.

So far as apartment buildings and public buildings such as hotels and motels are concerned, I am in favour of not only municipal bylaws to retrofit any existing building, but also that as a condition of someone renting a dwelling unit the building should be equipped with a smoke detector of one type or another.

I recognize it is not an expensive purchase, but we do not tell people they have to buy an appliance for their own good. The Legislature has not done that in the past and I really fear we are treading on dangerous ground when we start telling somebody, "We are going to walk into your home, declare that your home is improper because it does not have a particular electrical appliance we happen to like—whether you like it or not—and we are going to fine you for not having it, or force you to buy one if you do not have one, or both."

I think this kind of precedent is not right and I would encourage all honourable members to give it some thought. Perhaps there is just a bit too much civil libertarian in me when I think of those issues; nevertheless, I do believe in this kind of thing fundamentally, although I support the general principle of the resolution.

I think all members should encourage citizens to have smoke alarms. Perhaps in the constituency mailouts we send out we could include a little paragraph saying how important this kind of thing would be. There, of course, I am in full concurrence with the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot) on the general principle of the resolution.

I intend to support the resolution notwithstanding the reservation I have, because I think it is certainly well-founded. However, there is this component in it that, as I said previously, I personally would be very reticent about approving as a Legislature no matter how good we think a particular idea is.

We have discussed in the past in this Legislature, and I know the member for Timiskaming has discussed with us, this business of property rights. It is unusual to see how on the one hand some of us in this Legislature, perhaps

not all, are in favour of property rights, and on the other hand we are in favour of retrofitting an existing building with an electrical appliance that we think is for the good of the individual living there.

Having voiced those small reservations about that particular sentence in ballot item 7, I nevertheless want to give my general concurrence to the intent the member has, which is to encourage all individuals, not only municipalities but all people in this province, to equip themselves with this relatively inexpensive appliance, which could be a life saver for several people.

I certainly want to give my approval to any initiative that generates this kind of debate and gets people to support it. However, at the risk of repeating myself many times, I do think we have to be concerned about retrofitting an individual's private residence.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution of the member for Timiskaming, but I should say at the outset I have some problems with it and I will express them during the course of my comments.

I am going to support the resolution because I agree in principle with the sentiment that we should have smoke alarms in every residential unit in the province. I guess to that extent I disagree with the concerns expressed by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Although I am going to support this resolution, I feel that to a great extent it is a cop-out, because we are trying to dump this responsibility on the municipalities, where it will happen in different fashions in each municipality and at different times and in different ways right across the province.

We have a government that is sitting right here, the member for Timiskaming is a member of that government, and we have that government in place on a number of other safety regulations in regard to residential premises in this province. For example, Ontario Hydro sets standards province-wide for the installation of electrical wiring in order to make residential premises safe, or presumably safe.

5 p.m.

Members may recall we had to commission a rather lengthy commission in this province to look into the question of aluminum wiring. Those safety responsibilities rightly fall on the provincial government to service all the residents of this province equally. That is the major fault I find with this resolution. It attempts to avoid the

question of uniform safety regulations across the province.

I do not know what is behind avoiding that question, but I would prefer to see a resolution or, as the member for Prescott-Russell mentioned, more specifically a private member's bill we could discuss realistically so as to have something happen when the vote is completed at the end of this afternoon as opposed to expressing a wish only. It is a very important issue.

I have some other problems, not with the resolution as it is written, but with the things it does not include that are also important aspects of this debate. For example, the member for Timiskaming is clearly right in that, for the majority of citizens in this province, the smoke alarms he refers to in this resolution are for the most part adequate. The member for Prescott-Russell has mentioned there are different types of smoke alarms that deal with different types of fumes and/or gases from different kinds of fires, and that has to be addressed.

There are also people in this province who, through age, a physical handicap or some other problem, are perhaps not in a position fully to respond to a smoke alarm, even if they happen to hear it. For example, we have deaf people who have a problem hearing it in the first place. Then we have physically handicapped people with handicaps that do not allow them to move around quickly. Even if they do hear it, they are not in a position to respond to it.

A whole range of technologies is available. We are getting beyond the question of an internal smoke alarm for the individual home. For example, we have a nonprofit corporation that has just been formed in Hamilton because of the involvement of a couple of people in saving a couple of seniors from a fire. The seniors were unable to get out on their own. It was not because they were unable to get out that they were overcome; it was because of the physical problems they had. They were aware of the fire, but were unable to act quickly enough to get out.

This nonprofit corporation in Hamilton is currently looking for funding assistance to set up a system in the city that would provide a number of services to protect people from fires and for medical emergencies such as heart attacks or falls they are unable to respond to. There is equipment available that one can hook up to a phone which is set to dial a particular number to reach a resource centre that would have full medical information about the people with the equipment, as well as information about their ability to get around.

This equipment comes with devices you can hang around the neck so that if you are trapped in bed, you can push the button and the phone will dial out to the central number. That kind of equipment is much more expensive. It will serve people. Occasionally, we find handicapped or elderly people who have substantial incomes, but most people who fall into the categories we would be trying to help with that equipment do not have the financial wherewithal to provide it.

As a Legislature, we have to look seriously at that kind of social service in this province for the disabled, the elderly and so on. That kind of equipment is as important in providing the kind of human protection the member for Timiskaming is talking about as is the basic smoke alarm for the average healthy citizen in this province.

We also have to take a very serious look, if we are really serious about providing this kind of protection, at what kinds of alarm systems may be available—and this is one area in which I am not specifically aware—for those who are deaf, simply because the kinds of alarms we are talking about in this resolution do not adequately provide them with protection at all unless they happen to be living with somebody who can then assist them in recognizing that there is a fire.

That is another area we have to look at specifically. Because it would seem to me that equipment in this area is likely to be more expensive than the basic smoke alarm, we are going to have to look at providing some social assistance for those people to be in a position to install the kind of equipment that will provide them with protection equal to what the average, normal, healthy citizen in this province can get at a fairly reasonable price.

I will support the resolution because I support the basic principle that there should be protection in every household or living unit in Ontario in a major and concerted effort to provide protection to human life.

The one other issue I would like to deal with is the last item in the resolution, that insurance companies provide reduced rates to home owners who install smoke detection devices. I wholeheartedly agree that this should happen. On the other hand, the insurance industry in this country is and has been famous for ignoring logic and setting its rates at will to suit itself and not the public at large.

The insurance industry in this country has provided incentives for certain things in the past, but only in those areas that are very remotely likely to happen. They provide insurance incentives for people who will sign a pledge as

abstainers. The resolution implies we are going to have smoke detectors in every home across the province, but what insurance company in its right mind is going to provide a reduction to every single resident or home owner in this province? It is not going to happen unless this government is prepared to do something to make it happen, and that is a reality we have to face as well. The last part of this resolution is a misnomer.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak on this resolution and to offer my support to my colleague the member for Timiskaming.

The intent of the resolution is excellent, but I do have some reservations about one part of it. I feel there are three parts to the resolution. The first is the merit of smoke detectors, and I have no problem with that. The second is the mandatory legislation pertaining to installing the devices, and I do have a problem with that. The third is the involvement of the insurance industry, and I share the concern of the member for Timiskaming in emphasizing that the insurance industry does owe more of an obligation to the community than it has provided in the past in this area.

5:10 p.m.

On the first point, I do feel that properly installed smoke detectors will help prevent a tragic loss of life. I have a couple of sad experiences I would like to relate which happened in my own community. One was just as recently as a few years ago at Christmastime, when two friends retired to their bedroom and went to sleep early. They were awakened in the middle of the night; the smoke detector had gone off and their house was on fire. The husband led the way out of the bedroom towards the exit and was able to reach the door. Unfortunately, his wife was not and was burned to death. This is an indication that the smoke detector had partly fulfilled its goal; it had saved one life but, unhappily, not the other. That was one of the unfortunate things that happened.

It is very ironic that this individual had been involved in another tragic accident relating to a fire. Several years prior to this, three little boys aged approximately four, five and six burned to death in their home. At that time we did not have smoke detectors, so there is no point in discussing whether or not they would have helped. The ironic part was that the chap who lost his wife in the fire also owned the casket company that provided the caskets for the funerals for these three little children. Then he too suffered the tragic consequences of a fire.

This reaffirms my commitment to any type of prevention in this area. I certainly support the concept that smoke detectors will save lives.

On a personal note, I might mention that last September 29 a news release was sent out on the benefits of smoke detectors, based on an Ontario Housing Corp. smoke detector survey in 1982. It said: "Ontario Housing Corp., which owns more than 84,000 rental units across the province, has been a leading advocate of smoke detectors for many years. The 1982 survey indicated that smoke detectors discovered 85 of the 179 fires in OHC units during the year. Smoke detectors were credited with probably saving lives in 47 of the fires and with reducing property damage in 97 incidents."

When I was asked to speak on this resolution, I conducted some personal research into the issue. One area I was concerned about was its social cost to society. I might mention that when I checked with one of the leading hospitals specializing in the care of burn victims, namely, the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, I was informed that the cost of maintaining a patient in its burn unit for one day is \$1,088 for all services. That is nearly \$1,100 a day. Compared to that cost, the cost of smoke detectors is a very small amount.

I also contacted the fire marshal, John Bateman. Since 1976 smoke detectors have been required by the Ontario Building Code in new single-family dwellings, and a growing number of owners of older homes continue to install smoke detectors. Fire departments across Ontario confirm that lives are being saved as a result.

I would like to enter into the record one comment by Mr. Bateman: "The fire death rate in 1983 fell to 1.7 per 100,000 population. This is the first time that it has ever dropped below the level of two deaths per 100,000. It is an encouraging trend, and I would suspect that in some measure this is due to the use of smoke detectors." That is a quotation from Mr. Bateman's telephone call today.

I strongly support the thrust of the resolution, but I am concerned about the implications associated with the mandatory legislation. I agree with the concerns of my colleague the member for Prescott-Russell in the same area.

To urge municipalities to pass bylaws is one thing. How they are going to enforce them is another. If we are going to have—I was going to say state troopers but that is maybe not quite accurate—police or bylaw enforcement officers having to go into buildings and private homes to

check to see if in reality the devices are being installed and installed accurately so they will be workable, that is one point, but it is my understanding that under section 31 of the Planning Act, the property standards bylaw, this can only be done by permission of the owner. Failing that, one has to have a search warrant. That starts to defy the logic of private property. We are protecting people from themselves, and I am concerned about that aspect.

If it were only once in a lifetime that this would happen, it would not be so bad. But if they are installed and are not properly maintained, there is no benefit in installing them. We would have to have the same legislative bylaw officers go back constantly to check to make sure they are working.

I spoke to one of my insurance friends and asked him about that aspect of it. He said one of the problems they run into is that kids are constantly borrowing the batteries to use in their toys and radios, etc. They forget to return them, replace them or tell their parents they have taken them out. We could create a real problem.

I support the thrust of the member's resolution with that one concern about taking away the freedom of those in private dwellings. I have a great deal of difficulty with that. The thrust should be in the direction of educating the public. We should encourage the municipalities to work with their fire departments and school boards to educate young people. Surely the Solicitor General and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) could work out a program to educate our young people so they, in turn, can educate their parents on the advantages of smoke detectors.

In closing, as I have only a few minutes, I would like to touch on the third aspect of the resolution. That is the one that refers to encouraging insurance companies to provide some incentives to home owners to install smoke detectors through a rebate or some type of system. As I understand it, that was in effect but was discontinued. It is my understanding some insurance companies still provide that service.

I would like to suggest to the members of the Legislature that it might be more beneficial if, instead of criticizing the insurance companies that do not provide a premium rebate or some type of assistance to home owners who take this positive approach, we in some way support the insurance companies that do provide this social benefit to their policyholders.

We might then encourage the other insurance companies to realize it is a good idea. Perhaps

they would jump on the bandwagon and also provide some incentives so that people who are taking out insurance will have some reason to go out and spend the \$20 or \$30 necessary to buy one unit. However, in most cases they will need two, three or four devices for a home, not one.

I hope the members support the basic thrust of the resolution with the one exception of the mandatory action.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the member for raising this important public issue, which comes within the jurisdiction of two levels of government, and three if the federal government could find some way of becoming involved.

Most of us in April 1984 are convinced of the value of smoke detectors. In many municipalities where there has been a lot of advertising about these detectors and where there has been some kind of public education program, there would be few homes that would not now have smoke detectors.

One of the advances we have seen in gift-giving is that many people for various reasons—birthdays or whenever one wants to find an occasion to do so—have chosen smoke detectors as a potential gift to give to people who do not yet have one.

In my own home I manage to make the smoke detector go off every once in a while simply by burning something in the oven or on the stove.

Mr. Nixon: You should think about getting a better cook around there.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: That happens quite often. When I do my own cooking, as I do from time to time, it is not always successful; and if I leave the kitchen, go into the living room and begin to do some reading or watch television or something, sometimes the only way I know something is not being cooked as it should be is that the smoke alarm goes off and indicates to me clearly that some action has to take place.

Mr. Stokes: It is usually too late then.

Mr. Bradley: It is too late. It is in time to save the house, in fairness to the member for Timiskaming, but too late to save the food to be consumed that evening, unless it is sausages or something I happen to like burned or well done; in that case it might work out all right.

I am pleased the member has raised the issue, because by raising it in this Legislature he has focused some more public attention on this very issue. We can quarrel, as we do from time to time in the private members' hour, with the details of a

particular resolution or, when it is in the form of a bill, with certain provisions in that bill; but what is important about this is the fact that the public is once again alerted to the value of smoke detectors in saving lives.

I was listening with a good deal of interest to the member making the presentation initially when he talked about not only the lives, which we take for granted that we want to save, naturally, but also about the property damage that takes place each year.

The member and others in the House brought forward some astounding figures as to the real damage that is caused by fire if one examines that total in a year. Certainly it would continue to reduce—because it has already had some effect—the amount of money that insurance companies must pay out because of fires that have taken place in homes, and therefore it should have the effect of reducing premiums simply on that basis.

I am concerned about one aspect. Two previous members, the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) and the member for Prescott-Russell, expressed concern about the mandatory portion as it relates to individual homes.

One cry we get in our society was put forward with respect to seatbelts. The previous member for St. Catharines made quite a stand on seatbelts. He himself refused to wear a seatbelt, or at least announced he was not going to wear a seatbelt, and he did feel at the time it was something that should not be mandatory. Most people in the province, and certainly most members of the Legislature, had a different point of view. We have saved many lives in this province, I believe, and we have saved a lot of people from serious injury by the mandatory use of seatbelts.

In this specific instance, however, I would prefer the educational method of encouraging people to install smoke detectors in their homes. There are two ways. One, of course, is education through the Ministry of Education. We think of extended education or continuing education; we think of students.

Students have an awful lot of influence. Children have an awful lot of influence on their parents with some of the things they learn at school. For instance, many parents have mentioned to me that they have quit smoking as a result of the pressure applied by the kids, who have been subjected to the very valuable information presented at school about the damage that can be done to one's body through smoking and about all the reasons for not

smoking, notwithstanding the concerns of my friends who represent ridings where tobacco is produced. That has had an effect.

It is interesting to watch and to listen to parents, who say, "You know, what really changed my mind was when my seven-year-old kid came up to me and said, 'Do you know what damage you are doing to your lungs? Do you know that this is going to shorten your life?'" or things of that nature.

What I am pointing out is that young people have an influence on their parents, and through the education system we can promote the use of smoke detectors.

We can also do it through information that is provided by the government. I am not suggesting that we embark on yet another advertising campaign in which it says, "George Taylor, Solicitor General of Ontario," just before the election, and "Here is something else your Ontario government is doing." I am not indicating we should do that.

I think the provision of pamphlets to schools and in other public places, the availability of people from various sections of the government to speak on this issue, are certainly valuable in educating the public to the desirability and the essential nature of this resolution and the provision of smoke detectors.

As I was alluding, I am concerned about the mandatory aspect. Other members have mentioned that in new homes they are now mandatory through the Ontario Building Code. I am concerned about making them mandatory in older homes, albeit some of the older homes are the ones that could benefit the most from the installation of smoke detectors. I would hope people would take that initiative.

I would be concerned if we ever were to implement legislation in this province that would require a person to install yet another device in a home that is already constructed and already lived in. However, that does not mean we should not encourage those people to do so. We can do it by something else that was mentioned, I think, in the latter part of the member's resolution. That is where he suggested the insurance industry should encourage home owners to install smoke detectors by offering more attractive insurance rates to home owners who install smoke detectors on their property.

All of us who receive our notice of payment of our premium for any kind of insurance usually get some information with that. Usually the company says how nice it is being to the customer by not raising the rate higher than it

already has been raised or by explaining that there is some reason those rates have been reduced. By using that advertising medium on the part of the individual insurance companies, we can certainly promote the use of smoke detectors.

The member's suggestion that insurance companies be prevailed upon to give significant reductions in their premiums and make known this policy to the policyholders is something that can be beneficial. In the past, we have seen too many lives that have been lost unnecessarily.

I am not an expert on fires. I admire those people who work in fire departments and face the crises of fire on a first-hand basis day after day. I do know from watching television, reading about it in articles in magazines and so on, that many deaths are caused not by the fire itself but by the smoke that is inhaled. I think a lot of people are still not aware that is the case.

The smoke detector is the early warning system. In our country we have radar. We have the distant early warning line, the Pinetree line and other installations which involve radar to detect an enemy that might choose to invade our country by air. Fire is an enemy of people and of property; so is smoke. What the member is suggesting is that we install that kind of equipment which is going to warn us of that intruder.

I think members of this House should support this resolution. I certainly support it with the one provision that there be removal of the mandatory aspect for homes that already exist but that there be a very strong educational program to encourage people who already have homes and do not have smoke detectors in them to get them. I recommend to my colleagues to support this enlightened resolution.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, as have all other members who have spoken on this resolution put forward by the member for Timiskaming. I do so with some very recent, unfortunate experience with fire.

As some members may know, my constituency office in Goulais River burned about three weeks ago. Although I hesitate to speculate on what the fire marshal's office report will be as to the cause of that fire, I do know that some of the volunteer firemen who fought the fire indicated that if a smoke detector had been installed by the landlord in the facility, there probably would not have been as much damage as there was.

As a person who has two smoke detectors in his own home, I regret very much that there was

not a smoke detector in my constituency office. I certainly support the position taken by the member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Bradley: Did it burn all those New Democratic Party pamphlets?

Mr. Wildman: I really have some difficulty even now making light of the experience I have gone through, but I will say that as all of us, I hope, adhere to the administration regulations, I do not have partisan material in my constituency office. I suppose I should assure the members of the House that there is no evidence as far as I am aware of any vandalism with regard to that fire.

I want to talk a little about an aspect that no other member has mentioned, perhaps because no other member who has spoken in this debate, other than the member for Timiskaming, is from northern Ontario. That aspect is the unorganized areas of the north.

While I support this resolution, which deals with municipalities—and I should point out that the largest municipality in Algoma district, the city of Sault Ste. Marie, has a bylaw that requires the installation of smoke detectors in all single-family dwellings and in apartment buildings as well as in other buildings, and I support that—I do not have the same kinds of concerns that many other members who have spoken have raised about having a compulsory regulation about smoke detectors.

Frankly, I cannot quite understand the argument that has been raised by a number of people that somehow it is not democratic to force people to protect themselves, if the members want to put it in those terms. If we were to require smoke detectors in all buildings in Ontario—not just in all municipalities, but in all buildings in this province—we would be not only requiring the owners of those buildings to protect themselves but also requiring landlords to protect tenants and people who own homes to protect guests.

I just do not understand the argument against that. I have no problem with the argument of compulsion. I support the position taken by the city council of Sault Ste. Marie. I would hope that other municipalities would pass these bylaws, as the member has proposed. I would prefer to have the government move to change the Ontario Building Code to require similar protection throughout and across the province in all municipalities.

I want to return to the question of unorganized communities. Even if we did have a change under the building code which required smoke detectors in all new buildings, that would not apply to unorganized communities. Certainly the

resolution as it is proposed does not deal with the problem of unorganized communities.

I know the government probably does not like to admit this, but in fact the Ontario Building Code does not apply to the unorganized communities. It is impossible to enforce it in the unorganized communities; there is nobody to do it.

People there build their homes as best they can. They get the hydro inspector to come in and inspect it, but there is no concerted attempt to ensure those houses or other buildings conform to the building code, because there is no one to enforce it. I find that very unfortunate, and I call upon the government to do something to ensure that the building code as it stands applies to unorganized communities as well as to municipalities.

When I first looked at this, I thought the way to get around the problem of the unorganized communities might be to suggest to the member that he change his resolution so that it does not just deal with and encourage municipalities but that it require the provincial government to change the building code. As I said, that does not apply to unorganized communities either.

I do not know how you would deal with the situation in unorganized communities. My riding office is in an unorganized community. I think the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the fire marshal's office under the Ministry of the Solicitor General have done a commendable job. I suppose that sounds funny coming from an opposition member, but I mean it. I think they have done a commendable job in terms of providing equipment, assistance and training to volunteer fire teams in the small, unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

Those communities were provided fire protection they never had before. Previously, they were dependent on the Ministry of Natural Resources, which has very little expertise to fight structural fires; its expertise is to fight forest fires. Oftentimes the ministry's equipment was located such a distance from the unorganized communities that when it did arrive, the building was completely gone and the people were lucky to have got out.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs has made it possible for people in those communities to obtain smoke detectors at a cut rate. I certainly support that. Unfortunately, and this is where I differ with the other members in this debate, that has not had any compulsion. There is no municipality that might require it by a bylaw. Certainly the local services board, if there is one

organized, cannot do that; it has no authority to do that sort of thing. The volunteer fire teams can encourage people to get smoke detectors, but they cannot require them. I believe there has to be action by this Legislature to deal with that problem.

I support the suggestions that have been made that the insurance industry should encourage people to install smoke detectors in older homes to which the new building code did not apply and that they should do that by lowering their rates. We know that in unorganized communities where fire teams have obtained equipment and training and have located fire departments, in many cases insurance companies have lowered the rates. One of the ways in which the volunteer fire teams have been able to persuade people to contribute to the raising of funds for the volunteer fire teams has been by pointing out that they will be saving money on their insurance as well as having protection, of course.

I certainly would support a concerted effort in educating the public on the merits of smoke detectors and in ensuring that not only single-family dwellings but also, as suggested in the resolution, public buildings such as hotels and motels have appropriate smoke detectors.

My constituency office, as members might expect, is in an older motel which did not have a smoke detector. While I should perhaps declare a conflict of interest in this debate, I support the resolution as it is proposed. Frankly, though, I do not think it goes far enough. We should have a measure of control over the whole province to ensure there is some compulsion. I do not accept the arguments that have been made against compulsion.

We should be protecting the whole of the population of this province through the installation of smoke detectors in all buildings. We should not be allowing people to avoid this. The ministry and the government should be ensuring that people are assisted in installing those smoke detectors. I support the resolution, but it does not go quite far enough.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, I also would like to join in the debate on this resolution today and support my colleague the member for Timiskaming, as it appears all members in the House do at this time.

There is no question that this House should encourage and support any measure that minimizes property destruction and improves life safety in the event of a fire. I am sure all members are aware of many unfortunate incidents in their

own ridings where fire has caused undue destruction and even loss of life.

Earlier this month four members of a family in the city of Cambridge, in my riding, were consumed by a fire. I was talking to the fire chief this morning in preparing these remarks. He advised me he is 99 per cent sure the family would have escaped from the home had a smoke detector been functioning in the building at the time. It was a smouldering fire and he felt they could have escaped.

We all know of many incidents such as this. How many times have people said, "I wish I had installed a smoke detector"? Obviously, if more widespread use of smoke alarms can help save lives, this House should make a concentrated effort to encourage wider installation of these devices in all dwellings.

As the member for Timiskaming has pointed out, there is a growing body of evidence to suggest this is the case. Properly installed smoke alarms are effective.

In researching this issue, I was struck by the concern that a number of individuals treat smoke alarms as a nuisance rather than as a safety device. Reflecting for a moment, I can think of many individuals I know who have disconnected their smoke alarms or, as the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel has pointed out, removed the batteries for other uses. It is a sad situation that this should happen.

At lunchtime today, I was sitting in our dining room. One of our own colleagues suggested he has a smoke alarm in his house, but it is not connected at the present time. Shame, shame.

Mr. Wildman: Name him.

Mr. Barlow: As my colleague has suggested, people must be made aware of the additional safety provided by a correctly installed smoke alarm.

Mr. Boudria: Tell us who it is. We will keep it quiet.

Mr. Barlow: I am going to keep it quiet.

People are in a better position to increase public awareness if they are made aware and are educated in this real problem area. Obviously, politicians and public officials have a major role to play in a drive to increase public awareness about better fire safety and the effectiveness of smoke alarms.

The integral role people such as superintendents of apartments and property managers can play is often overlooked. People in these positions can have a major impact on fire safety and how effectively a fire is handled should it break out.

According to the Toronto superintendents' association only about one quarter of its members know and care enough about fire safety to be truly effective in protecting tenants. Without fire-conscious superintendents, high-rise apartments, even those with state of the art fire prevention systems can harbour potentially dangerous situations. To correct this, the Toronto superintendents' association has proposed mandatory courses in fire safety for all building superintendents, building managers and security staff.

I am sure members in this House will agree this is a sound recommendation that deserves our full support and encouragement. Indeed, a recommendation of this nature is included in Judge Webber's report on high-rise fire safety.

Implementing such a proposal would give apartment tenants much more assurance they are being protected from the risk of fire and they will be properly guided should a fire break out.

I think the members can concur that the superintendents should be encouraged to become a stronger link in the fire protection chain. Furthermore, they should be urged to assume a greater role in increasing tenants' awareness about effective and correctly installed smoke detectors and fire safety procedures.

If everybody does his part in helping to increase public awareness about smoke alarms and fire safety, we should start to see fewer smoke alarms disconnected because they were accidentally activated.

I agree with those members who have suggested an education program is the place to begin. We all know how effective it is for children to be handed a pamphlet at school. They take it home and the members of the family are encouraged by the kids to install a smoke alarm.

I know this has been brought up as a point today in likening it to seatbelt legislation. I started buckling up my seatbelt long before it was mandatory because my kids saw it on television and it was preached to them at school. These are the sorts of educational moves that have to be made in order to increase our awareness.

Smoke detectors are not a nuisance; they are a life saver. This afternoon, each of us on all sides of the House has addressed how different people and institutions in society can help to make fire safety a greater public priority. To this end we will achieve better fire safety only if everybody becomes more aware of it. By passing the resolution before us, we will be taking an important step in this direction.

Mr. Havrot: Mr. Speaker, because the time available is limited, I just want to thank the members on both sides of the House for the unanimous support shown for this resolution. Although some sections of the proposal do not meet with 100 per cent approval, I am extremely delighted by the fact the members across the House and on our own side have at least recognized the tremendous importance of smoke detectors.

In closing, I want to remind members that it was just 42 years ago last month that I witnessed a tragedy in which six people died. They did not burn to death, they were asphyxiated; and at that time the discussion was, "Too bad they did not have smoke detectors so those six lives could have been saved." One of them was a schoolmate of mine.

On that note I want to thank all members for their support of this resolution.

5:56 p.m.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The House divided on Mr. Laughren's motion of resolution 6, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Boudria, Bradley, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Copps, Di Santo, Eakins, Elston, Foulds, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Newman, Nixon, Philip, Riddell, Stokes, Wildman.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Scrivener, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams.

Ayes 22; nays 45.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Havrot has moved resolution 7.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before we have the business statement, I wonder if we

might revert to motions in order that I can make a motion concerning a committee meeting.

Agreed to.

MOTION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the select committee on the Ombudsman be authorized to sit on the morning of Thursday, April 26, until 10 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the House will not sit on Monday, April 23.

On Tuesday, April 24, in the afternoon and evening, we will deal with legislation in the following order: third readings of bills in Orders and Notices, followed by committee of the whole on Bill 123; then second reading and committee of the whole, if required, on Bills 6, 11, 12, 14 and 27. If time permits, we will then go into committee of the whole on Bill 42.

On Wednesday, the usual committees may meet.

On Thursday, April 26, we will consider private members' items in the names of the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) and the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen). In the evening, we will continue any legislation not completed on Tuesday.

On Friday, April 27, we will debate the motions for adoption of the 1982 and 1983 reports of the public accounts committee and the motion to adopt the third report of the regulations committee.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I have here a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1985, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. It is signed, John Black Aird; Toronto, April 18, 1984.

The House adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

EXTRA BILLING

235. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table the number of bills submitted on an extra-billing and on a non-extra-billing basis by general practitioners and the following specialists during the years 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980: anaesthetists, obstetricians/gynaecologists, psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, orthopaedic surgeons, urologists, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, internists, otolaryngologists, neurolo-

gists, paediatricians and dermatologists? [Tabled March 26, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of subscriber claims and claims submitted by opted-in physicians is shown as attached on a fiscal year basis, since this is the method by which Ontario health insurance plan information is maintained.

The comparable information requested for 1980-81 and 1981-82 is not available since the files required to recreate this information are maintained for only 550 days.

**Number of medical claims
submitted during the period April-March**

	1982-83		1983-84	
	Pay physician	Pay subscriber	Pay physician	Pay subscriber
General practitioners	37,013,236	1,734,790	38,411,514	1,677,449
Anaesthetists	513,837	164,290	595,706	141,929
Obstetricians and gynaecologists	1,247,504	442,265	1,421,947	546,852
Psychiatrists	768,164	135,630	862,425	162,723
Ophthalmologists	912,013	519,652	952,255	549,194
Orthopaedic surgeons	786,873	212,399	799,699	196,381
Urologists	314,655	118,779	332,308	112,700
Plastic surgeons	249,104	59,108	279,741	54,455
General surgeons	1,576,463	190,731	1,726,693	190,556
Internists	4,842,319	166,986	5,019,862	176,588
Otolaryngologists	634,568	143,254	667,043	153,763
Neurologists	264,794	11,961	279,887	11,825
Paediatricians	1,665,606	93,027	1,663,671	68,788
Dermatologists	941,458	50,541	1,074,714	52,307

NURSING HOMES

262. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House which nursing homes did not have residents' councils as of April 1, 1984? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of homes without residents' councils on April 1, 1984, was five.

263. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House if he thinks it is acceptable for the activity director of the administration to chair residents' council meetings? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Legislation related to this question is: regulation 72a(7), "Where a residents' council is established in a nursing home, the administrator shall only attend meetings of the council when requested by the council"; and regulation 72a(9), "No administrator or member of the staff of a nursing home shall be a member of a residents' council."

These regulations are designed to exclude nursing home staff from residents' council membership. It is the prerogative of the residents' council to appoint whomever they wish to chair their meetings.

264. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health support his statement that the average staffing levels for nursing and personal care are above the 1.5 hours per day minimum in Ontario's nursing homes? Will the minister explain if he has any evidence beyond the auditing of time sheets submitted by nursing home operators to support his statement? Has the minister adjusted these calculations to take into account the time nursing staff spend in housekeeping, dietary, laundry and other non-nursing care related activities? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The average staffing levels for nursing and personal care are above 1.5 hours per day in Ontario's nursing homes.

In addition to the auditing of time sheets, ministry inspectors observe and question whether time sheets and actual staffing are congruent on days of inspection visit.

Staffing hours devoted to other than nursing and personal care are excluded from nursing hours before ratios are calculated.

265. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health outline what action his ministry has taken in response to recommendations made by coroners' juries investigating the deaths of nursing home residents Linda Amory, Katharine Jackson, Yves Soumelidis, Richard Thomas, Herbert Chafour and Vera Wilson? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The Ministry of Health reviews all of the recommendations made by each inquest jury into the deaths of nursing home residents. In each instance every recommendation is carefully assessed and a response made to the chief coroner for Ontario regarding the ministry's position and, where applicable, the ministry's action regarding the recommendation.

266. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table a list of the number of inspections and observed areas of noncompliance to the Nursing Homes Act found on each inspection at Lincoln Place Nursing Home since January 1983? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The annual licence renewal inspection provides information on the areas of noncompliance in a home. The annual licence renewal inspection of Lincoln Place Nursing Home took place September 7 to 12, 1983, and the follow-up inspection of major areas of noncompliance took place on October 21, 1983, November 28, 1983, January 25, 1984, and February 14, 1984.

The public reports of both the annual licence renewal and follow-up inspections are available in the ministry reading room.

267. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House which nursing homes are at present in noncompliance with regulation 73(3) of the Nursing Homes Act? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Regulation 73(3) became a requirement on January 1, 1984. As each licence renewal inspection is conducted, this regulation will be examined for compliance and the result indicated in the public report of the inspection.

268. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health list all nursing homes whose staffing patterns indicate that they provide more than 1.5 hours per day nursing care to residents who require it? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: As case loads and staffing needs vary, a list of all nursing homes that routinely provide more than 1.5 hours of nursing care per day is not available. The current average of nursing and personal care provided in Ontario nursing homes, calculated from inspection records updated on successive inspections, is 2.06 hours per resident per day.

269. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health indicate approximately what percentage of its extended care per diem and residents' copayments it expects to be allocated to (1) food, (2) building maintenance, (3) nursing and personal care, (4) administration, (5) recreation, (6) rehabilitation, (7) return on investment and (8) other costs (please specify)? Will the minister indicate what he believes to be the actual expenditures or range of expenditures in Ontario nursing homes on each of the above areas? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Determination of the per diem rate for extended care residents in nursing homes is a matter of negotiation between the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Nursing Home Association and takes into account overall inflation factors. The allocation of per diem funds is determined by individual nursing homes and therefore varies, and the ministry has no records of these expenditures.

270. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table a list of all nonprofit organizations which have submitted proposals for nursing home licences and have been refused? In the answer, please state the municipality and number of beds in each case. [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: A record is not retained of all responses to proposals for nursing home beds.

271. Mr. Cooke: When does the Minister of Health plan to introduce care-related regulations under the Nursing Homes Act? Will these

regulations include requirements for specific programs to improve the quality of life for nursing home residents? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The major portion of the current Nursing Homes Act and regulations is care-related or provides standards related to the quality of life. In addition, I anticipate that future changes will be related to these areas.

272. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health explain how, in awarding new beds to nursing home operators, it gives preference to operators willing to admit residents needing more than 1.5 hours of care? How are these conditions enforced? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Proposals where this aspect is identified as a consideration are examined regarding commitments to admit residents requiring more than 1.5 hours of care. Within the written presentation and the interview process, the proposer's plans for these admissions are reviewed in detail. Nursing care inspectors examine and record the care levels of residents admitted to the homes. If the award is made in an area with a placement co-ordination service, the PCS is aware of the levels of care provided by the home and takes these into account in co-ordinating placements.

273. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table a list of all homes for the aged that have applied for licences for increased extended care bed allocations since 1980? Please indicate the number of beds requested in each case and the number of beds granted. [Table April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: This question, which concerned homes for the aged, should be directed to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

274. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health clarify recent statements attributed to officials of the ministry, and table a list of regulations to the Nursing Homes Act, that noncompliance is neither hazardous for the health and safety of nursing home residents nor demeaning to the quality of life of nursing home residents? Do inspectors of the nursing homes inspection branch, as a matter of policy or practice, cite as areas of noncompliance conditions which are trivial, picayune or unimportant? If so, please give 10 recent examples. If not, does the ministry agree that all infractions of the Nursing Homes Act are in fact matters of serious concern? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: All areas of noncompliance of any regulations noted during inspectors' visits are cited with the exception of

grandfathered or deferred regulations. In citing an area of noncompliance, inspectors do not make a judgement as to whether the infraction is trivial or unimportant.

INTERIM ANSWERS

2 to 88; 118 to 146; 176 to 233. Mr. Peterson et al: Cabinet Office—The right of members of the Legislature to seek information regarding the spending practices of the government is an acknowledged element of our system of government. The government of Ontario has long recognized the importance of this tradition and has endeavoured to fulfil its obligations in this regard.

Standing order 81(a) enables members to place questions on the notice paper which relate to "the public affairs of the province." Admittedly this phrase may be subject to broad interpretation. However, it is posited that the standing order contemplates a degree of both responsibility and reasonableness on the part of members in the use of this authority and the demands made upon the resources allocated to the answering of such questions.

Standing order 81(d) states that the government may decline to answer written questions. This option has been exercised in cases where a measure of reasonableness in terms of the numbers of questions posed or the complexity thereof has been exceeded in the view of the government.

In recent years the practice surrounding order paper questions has undergone considerable change. It has been readily apparent that a great increase in both the number and complexity of questions has occurred.

The average number of written questions placed in each of the past 17 sessions of the Legislature totalled 174. Beginning in 1979, with the third session of the 31st parliament, however, the number of questions rose significantly. The actual numbers of questions asked in each of the past five sessions were 418, 441, 283, 711 and 395. Some 317 questions have already been asked during the 17 days in which the House has conducted the business of the current session. It is clear, then, that members have greatly expanded their utilization of the relevant standing orders.

At the same time, similar increases have been evident in the detail and complexity of information sought through such questions. In one instance, for example, the physical assistance of the legislative pages was required when the government tabled a large number of cartons containing the responses to a series of questions.

The questions at hand continue this recent trend. A number of questions either seek information which is already in the public domain or simply repeat questions which received substantive responses during the last session. Any attempt to provide the detailed information required by the majority of the remaining questions could require the expenditure of considerable moneys and time. Additional means to aid the government in these endeavours could be provided through either the diversion of resources from current assignments or through the allocation of newly acquired resources. As members are aware, additional resources can only be acquired by means of increased taxation or borrowing.

Coupled with the rights of members to pose reasonable demands upon the resources at their disposal is the responsibility of the government to ensure the effective utilization of public funds and manpower. On the one hand, the government must consider whether the public interest would be served by providing all resources necessary to give detailed responses to every question placed on Orders and Notices. At the same time, the government has a duty to consider whether other existing sources might aid the queriers in their pursuit of information. The government must therefore seek a balance between the duty to respond where possible to the requests of members and the obligation to allocate public resources in the most efficient manner possible.

It is submitted that there are indeed additional avenues of information which may be utilized in this instance. The government has referred to them on previous occasions, but they bear repeating. They include the public accounts of Ontario, the legislative library, ministry libraries, caucus research offices—the resources of which have increased considerably in recent years—and, of course, the estimates process.

The estimates represent a major activity in the life of the Legislature. Each year, hundreds of hours are provided during which the members may discuss the expenditure transactions of every ministry. In recent years, members have tended to broaden the focus of the estimates debates. While members are free to utilize their time in whatever manner they choose, it is submitted that the subject matters covered by many of these questions fall within the intended scope of this process. The government is pleased to note that indeed a number of members have already notified various ministers in writing to the effect that these matters may be raised during the upcoming debates.

Through the above-noted processes, it is hoped that both queriers and government alike will be aided in their efforts to conduct “the public affairs of the province” in the best interests of the taxpayers and citizens of Ontario.

RESPONSE TO PETITION

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sessional paper 58, re Secondary Highway 638, from Leeburn westerly, 13 kilometres.

Hon. Mr. Snow: This highway section has been reviewed previously, and I would like to confirm that reconstruction is included in the current five-year capital construction plan.

The ministries of Northern Affairs and Transportation and Communications certainly recognize the need for upgrading, but relative to other provincial needs in the north and limited dollars, it is unlikely that work can proceed in an early time frame. However, should additional funding become available, the timing will be reviewed.

Meanwhile, I can assure the “people of Ophir, Poplar Dale, Leeburn and surrounding districts” that MTC maintenance forces will do their utmost to maintain the highway between the previously improved adjacent sections to standards suitable for commuting and tourist traffic.

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Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)
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Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Women's Issues and Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)



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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, April 24, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 24, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to bring to your attention a difficult situation we in the opposition are experiencing in getting adequate answers from the government in response to questions placed in Orders and Notices.

In the responses coming from the government last week, the ministry indicated that while it would like to provide the answers to the questions we posed, we had simply asked for too much information and therefore "the government has a duty to consider whether other existing sources might aid the queriers in their pursuit of information."

Included in the "other existing sources" the government refers to are the caucus research offices. As we all know, these resources have increased considerably in recent years. We did indeed attempt to utilize our research facilities to obtain the information. In fact, three weeks ago our researchers contacted the finance and accounting branch of the Ministry of Health to inquire specifically about four contracts listed in the 1982-83 public accounts. Our only questions were about what services were obtained and whether the contracts were tendered.

The information was finally obtained from that ministry, but just before it was provided to our research office, the executive director of the minister's finance and administration division indicated: "Since the Liberal Party has posed the questions on the order paper, they can get their answers when those questions are answered. So I have instructed our staff here not to provide your party with any information on those types of question."

I simply make the point that in its response last week the government said to use the research facilities to get the information. When our researchers phone the public service, the response is that there are questions on the order paper which, when answered, will provide the information and the Liberal Party can wait for that.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) often says, "They cannot have it both ways." In this instance, Mr. Speaker, you are our impartial advocate. I ask you as the chairman of this assembly to see that the rules that give us the right to ask questions on the order paper and the tradition that the answers will be forthcoming are upheld. We ask you for your assistance in bringing the ministry, particularly the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) and his colleague, to the point where they can do their duty.

Mr. Speaker: I will be happy to transmit that information to the government House leader. I am sure he will speak with his colleagues and in due time will probably get an answer back to you. I urge him to do so.

[Later]

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order that concerns my attempt to receive information from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Last spring the ministry undertook a rural women's study, which originally was to have been ready last fall. However, after I wrote to the minister about receiving a copy of this report he indicated he did not expect—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has already raised that point. I urged the government House leader to transmit it to his colleagues. It is to be hoped there will be some action.

Mr. Riddell: No. He did not raise that.

Mr. Speaker: Oh yes, he did, with all respect.

MIDGET HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, through this past week and on the weekend a national event was held in North Bay: the Air Canada Cup, the national midget hockey championship. I know all members of the House will want to join me in congratulating the North Bay Pine Hill Coffee Shop hockey team, which won the Air Canada Cup. They are now the 1984 national champions. It is the first time in the past seven or eight years that a team from Ontario has won and the first time the Air Canada Cup has come to Ontario.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: This being April 24, I ask all honourable members to join with me in recognizing a new group of pages, who are beginning their duties today. They look forward with great anticipation and, I think, some little bit of nervousness to what is going to go on. I wish to read their names into the record:

Jonathan Abrams, Leeds; Tanya Andes, Middlesex; Christine Annett, Peterborough; Sarah Flynn, Armourdale; Tracy Gaudun, Haldimand-Norfolk; Patrick Hubley, Niagara Falls; Chris Hurren, Durham West; Paul Johnson, Hamilton Mountain; Trevor Julian, Nipissing; Jennifer Keresturi, Brant-Oxford-Norfolk; Thomas Kuster, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel;

Aimee Mabini, Wentworth North; Tammy MacDonald, Cochrane South; Kimberly McClain, Grey-Bruce; Heather McKinlay, Kent-Elgin; Christian McMillan, Algoma-Manitoulin; Kamal Mundi, Mississauga North; Mark Paznar, Mississauga South; Mark Purkis, Eglinton; Craig Smith, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Peter Smith, Sault Ste. Marie; Jessie Turner, Renfrew North, and Tim Vanbodegom, Simcoe Centre.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, apropos of your last remark, I hope the pages are aware that one of the great debates they will have will be that of job security or work sharing. I do not know which one is paramount these days; but, knowing where the last session came from, it will offer them a great deal of debate as they go forward.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on another matter I rise to enlist the support of all my colleagues in the Legislature for Organ Donor Awareness Week, which officially opened Monday.

All members know of the vital importance of the organ donor awareness program. Hundreds of our citizens across the country and in our province have literally been given a new life by the generosity of others. Organ donations increased in 1983, and we are grateful for that increase. However, there is still a chronic shortage, and hundreds of people are awaiting help.

Organ donations are literally priceless gifts, and our theme this week is particularly appropriate. It is: Together we can save someone's life. Members will be cognizant of the fact that the need is indeed critical. Is there anyone in our province who is not moved by the situation of

Lindsay Eberhardt, two years old and in desperate need of a liver transplant? There are others whose need is also desperate.

Shortages in donations of eyes and kidneys mean continued suffering for too many people in our province. Dr. Ross Bennett, Ontario's chief coroner, who has been in the forefront of the organ donation program, points out that such donations are more significant than ever since recent medical advances have dramatically increased the success rate of cornea and kidney transplants. The success rate is now close to 90 per cent.

I ask the honourable members who may not have done so to take the time to sign their driver's licences or an organ donation card and to urge family and friends to do the same. Sign up for life and give the gift of life itself.

Finally, I know I speak for my colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) and other members of the Legislature when I express my appreciation to some dedicated individuals whose contributions to the organ donor awareness program have been invaluable. Dr. Michael Robinette and Dr. Calvin Stiller, co-chairmen of the task force on organ donation, and others involved in both the task force and the Metro organ retrieval and exchange program deserve our heartiest thanks.

2:10 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC ACTS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make a brief statement with regard to the introduction of three bills which will take place later in the proceedings. One is to amend the Highway Traffic Act, a second is to amend the Off-Road Vehicles Act and a third is to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Let me highlight some of the major amendments in the Highway Traffic Act. In the interests of increased highway safety, the overall length of coupled vehicles, including the load, has been increased from 21 metres to 23 metres for vehicles travelling on a highway.

Following the recommendations of Dr. Robert Uffen's report of the Ontario Commission on Truck Safety, this two-metre increase will allow truck-trailer combinations, currently operating at 21 metres with cab-over-engine tractors, to operate with cab-behind-engine, long-wheelbase tractors without a loss of carrying capacity.

The use of cab-behind-engine tractors provides more stability, which in turn not only provides greater safety for other road users but also gives greater protection to the truck driver.

As a safeguard, to ensure this increased length does not result in unacceptable configurations, coupled vehicles must measure no more than 19 metres from the back of the driver's compartment of the tractor to the rearmost part of the vehicle combination. It will also allow for a vehicle combination with a distance of 16.75 metres or less between the centre of the kingpin of the first trailer and the rearmost part of the combination.

Another area of concern is the use of air brakes. The act has been amended to require drivers who have vehicles equipped with air brakes to obtain an air brake endorsement appropriate for their class of vehicle. This requirement will not become effective immediately as it will take some time to design the appropriate endorsement system.

Also, to meet the need for ambulances to respond quickly to emergencies, these vehicles will be exempt from speed limits while responding to an emergency call or transporting a patient or injured person in an emergency situation.

The act has also been revised with respect to those persons who drink and drive motorized snow vehicles. They will have their driver's licences suspended under the same terms as motorists who drink and drive.

The section dealing with school buses has also been rewritten, with new definitions for "children" and "school." In addition, the use of chrome yellow school buses has been extended to include charter-like trips for children.

Next, a major rewording of the sections of the Highway Traffic Act will deal with traffic controls and traffic control systems to clarify the law. It will standardize the technical terminology and permit technical matters to be handled through regulations. There are no substantive changes in these sections.

One area that will create substantive change is the introduction of an administrative fee for reinstating a suspended driver's licence. At the end of a suspension period, the driver must pay an administrative fee to reinstate that licence.

The second bill amends the Off-Road Vehicles Act. Legislation has been expanded to allow children under the age of 12 to drive an off-road vehicle under the close supervision of an adult.

The third bill modifies the new licence rewrite section of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act which was passed last December.

The representatives of both carriers and shippers who are advising the government on the implementation of responsible trucking agree that the two-stage licence rewrite process involving third-party interventions is excessively com-

plex, time-consuming and open to technical court challenges. These could combine to frustrate this essential phase towards trucking regulatory reform. The narrow limitations already placed on the Ontario Highway Transport Board while rewriting certificates makes this intervention process unnecessary and undesirable.

I trust all members of this House will see the value in these new provisions and amendments.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: With the concurrence of the House, I have been advised that we have a distinguished visitor in the members' gallery in the person of Mr. Douglas Lewis, member of Parliament for Simcoe North. I ask all members to welcome him.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Is that the Doug Lewis who read a letter in the House of Commons purported to be signed by me? Is he the one?

Mr. Speaker: Maybe you should ask him.

Mr. Nixon: Probably it is.

Mr. Peterson: He is doing a revenue audit on members of the cabinet. That is why he is here. I am sure it is fertile ground.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE DELAYS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister is no doubt aware of the reports in two separate articles in today's Toronto Sun with respect to the long waiting lists for cardiac surgery in Toronto. In particular, I am sure he is aware of the statements attributed to Dr. Scully and another, unnamed doctor that people are dying because of the failure of his ministry to provide a fourth cardiac unit in Toronto.

The minister has been aware of these problems for a long time. He has heard other doctors in other cities, such as Dr. Linton in London, make the same allegation that people were dying because of a shortage of hospital beds and cardiac units.

Now that the minister is specifically confronted by doctors being quoted about information he has denied in the past, how can he maintain we have sufficient resources when experts are saying people are dying?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I guess the accurate part of the honourable member's question was his very last comment that people are dying. I caution him carefully about choosing to draw any direct relationship between a waiting

list and the life expectancy of a given individual. He ought to look closely at what the individuals he is quoting have actually said.

Mr. Mancini: Do not lecture us.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member deserves a little lecture once in a while when he plays footloose and fancy-free on a matter as serious as this.

The waiting lists to which the member refers have been declining. Since late 1982 they have declined fairly significantly in the length of time one might wait for cardiac surgery. That does not beg the issue that we do have a recommendation from the district health council with respect to a fourth cardiac unit in Metropolitan Toronto. That is under consideration. There are ongoing discussions between staff in the ministry and at least one of the prospective hospitals where such a unit might be placed.

2:20 p.m.

I do not say this to be provocative, but only to try to encourage the member in his questions to put in perspective the information he may receive through the media, in particular that one might arbitrarily draw a conclusion from the fact that an individual may be on a waiting list and the fact that he dies. There is a body of expert information, represented most recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine*—I am not drawing any firm conclusion from it, but I think one must at least weigh it in the context of the conclusion one might erroneously draw from the statements that have been made—which suggests that although cardiac surgery may substantially improve the quality of life of an individual in eliminating some of the pain he might experience from time to time, there is substantial evidence that it does not affect life expectancy. One at least has to recognize that.

Mr. Peterson: Is that the minister's policy now?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is not a matter of policy, it is a matter of information for the honourable member. I did not raise that to be provocative, only to provide some additional information the member might wish to consider.

Mr. Peterson: As someone whose father went through this, I can say the minister is mistaken in his knowledge. If he is formulating government policy on the basis of some medical journal in the United States that may or may not be correct, no wonder we are as fouled up as we are.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister aware that as of May 1, 1984, the waiting list for open-heart surgery in Toronto is 364 patients? On December 1, 1983, it was 379 patients. There is no appreciable improvement in those waiting lists, contrary to the information the minister just tried to give this House.

Is he also aware his ministry was informed on March 17, 1980—four years ago—there was a need for a fourth cardiac unit in Toronto? This should not be a surprise to the minister or his predecessor. Now a respectable doctor, whom I am quoting, says the same thing. If the minister wants to stand up in this House and say that doctor is misinformed and his information is incorrect, then he should do so, but he should not weasel around.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: That doctor is saying people have died because of the delay in surgery. Is this the first time the minister has heard it? How can he support a ministry policy that allows people to die when he could have had a fourth unit and kept those patients alive longer? Surely that is the issue.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I treat the matter very seriously but I do not wish to engage in histrionics. I would point out to the member that my father, during his lifetime, also happens to have suffered extensively from heart disease. The member is not unique in being affected by that issue, one which is perhaps not relevant to the discussion before us.

Mr. Peterson: The minister brought it up.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I did not.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member raised the fact that his expertise was based upon the experience of his father. I think we ought to raise this discussion somewhat above those kinds of personal considerations and I shall attempt to do so.

The question of the accuracy of the information the member has is one I suppose only he can determine, but my information is that the waiting time for a person awaiting a procedure to be performed has in fact declined. My information is as recent as this morning and was gleaned in an effort to confirm the accuracy of the press report. The three-month period is relevant to late 1982.

For the cardiac units in Metropolitan Toronto, the waiting period as of the end of March at Toronto General Hospital was approximately 2.5 months, at Toronto Western Hospital, 2.5

months and at St. Michael's Hospital, 1.5 months, which represents a significant decline over the last two years.

I am not going to criticize the physician who expressed the opinion; I am not sure we have an accurate rendition of what he said. I happen to know the individual and have known him for years. He was a classmate in school. I have no reason to question his integrity or his sincerity. I would like to have a chance to talk to him to find out whether he said precisely that.

Again I say this not to be provocative, but I think we have to be careful about some of the things in the press that are attributed to people. In response to our inquiry this morning, one senior official at the hospital who was allegedly quoted in the article referred to a number of the issues raised in it as being "a pile of crap."

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, why is the minister constantly defending the status quo and trying to pretend there is not a problem, whether it be the cardiac problem in Toronto or similar situations that exist in other regions of the province, or whether it be the reality in the whole health care system right now, as evidenced by the minister's own bed studies and by bed studies we have discussed in this Legislature before, that there is a backup of elective surgery throughout the whole system because of poor planning?

When is the minister going to come to grips with the fact that people are having to wait too long for surgery, whether it be cardiac surgery or other forms of elective surgery, and we are putting people at risk? When is he going to come to grips with that situation and deal with the reality rather than defending the status quo, which presents grave problems for sick people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I hope what I have been saying has not impressed members as defending the status quo. By and large, I have been trying to correct an erroneous impression that has been created by virtue of the information that appeared, at least in headline form, in some of the Toronto press today and on one earlier occasion.

The question of the availability of beds is also a very difficult one to get across. The fact is, in my opinion, there are problems in terms of the methods by which beds are currently allocated in our health care system.

I would point out that it might be at least of some educative value for us to look at the experience in the city of Hamilton, for example, with the central bed registry and the use of a computer in identifying available beds. A prob-

lem that was perceived to exist in Hamilton a couple of years ago has effectively disappeared as a result of a more efficient system of allocating beds. That is not to say there are not still some needs within that community, but it is a substantially changed situation.

I would also point out that within the hospitals in Metropolitan Toronto at any given time—and there have been three or four occasions on which this has been done in an effort to try to determine what the situation is across the system in this community when a number of hospitals have indicated they are faced with a shortage of beds—one predictably will find approximately 1,000 empty beds. It is an allocation problem, which I hope to address, but we may not find the most effective way to address it is through simply responding to the perceived need and request for additional beds.

Mr. Peterson: The minister quoted the waiting list period at Toronto General for cardiac surgery as being two and a half months. He is right. But last December it was two and a half months as well; so there is no appreciable change. At Toronto Western Hospital, as of December 1, it was three months; it is now two and a half months. At St. Michael's Hospital, it was one and a half months and it is still one and a half months. There has been no significant change in terms of the waiting lists.

Given the fact again that in the Platt report the ministry was notified four or five years ago of the need for an extra cardiac unit, and given the fact that some 60 per cent of those people come from outside Metro Toronto to have that surgery because they do not have the same facility where they reside, surely the minister is cheating not just the residents of Toronto but people all across this province. Will he now not apply his mind to making sure that fourth cardiac unit is provided in the city of Toronto for the residents of all this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am glad the member now agrees with my figures. I thought he was quoting a figure of three months or in excess of three months for the waiting period when he rose to ask the question initially. If it were checked, I think Hansard might indicate that was the figure he used, as opposed to the figures I quoted and that he now agrees with.

I also would point out that although he goes back to December, which is only a few months ago, and says there has been no change, the figure he was using originally was referable not to three or four months ago but to the latter part of

1982. So if he looks at the trend over that period, there has been an improvement.

2:30 p.m.

The other thing it is important to bear in mind is that it is our opinion, and I think the opinion of at least two of the three hospitals involved, the waiting period is declining. This is not necessarily true of Toronto General Hospital where they are taxed heavily at present. The situation there is made a little worse by the fact that one of the senior cardiac surgeons at Toronto Western Hospital is out of service because he himself is undergoing bypass surgery. So there is a bit of difficulty within the system at the moment as other hospitals try to respond to that situation.

However, it is important to get the full picture before jumping to conclusions based upon incomplete information. The waiting period is apparently declining. I am not suggesting it is going to decline dramatically below the present level.

At the moment we are discussing with one other hospital the possibility of its being the site for a fourth cardiac unit. I would expect within the next two to three months, by the early summer perhaps, we would be in a position to have made such a decision. In the interim, I have asked that two of those three hospitals particularly seek to increase their capacity within existing facilities. I made it clear that through our funding formula we would make the funding available for the additional demands upon their service.

[Later]

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I believe the Minister of Health owes this House an apology. He has been defending the unbelievably long waiting list for cardiac surgery. The fact that his ministry is collecting Ontario health insurance plan premiums—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat. It is not a point of order.

Mr. Sargent: I think it is.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is not. Please resume your seat.

Mr. Sargent: Why can you not hear my question?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sargent: I still think it is a form of fraud, what he is doing.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, why do you not throw him out?

Mr. Speaker: Do not tempt me. These long weekends are obviously not productive.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister is no doubt aware of the report issued this morning called Toronto's Drinking Water: A Chemical Assessment. He is no doubt aware of the disturbing findings in it. For the first time, to the best of our knowledge, there has been an admission by a public body of significant levels of toxic chemicals and metals in the drinking water of a major metropolitan area—Toronto—and other communities as well.

Some of our treatment methods are based on century-old technology and we have not made investments in the treatment of water that would prevent some of these problems. Given this fact, will the minister now accelerate projects for ozonization and activated carbon filtration for drinking water so that we can guarantee the safety of that drinking water in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is aware that in this very House not more than a couple of weeks ago I announced we were introducing the carbon filtration process in the great riding of Niagara Falls. I noted that experiment would cost the government some \$1 million over a three-year period. That answers at least part of the member's question with respect to our commitment to look at and investigate new technology and new methods of removing some of the trace contaminants he mentioned in the preamble to his question.

There are perhaps trace levels or background levels of some contaminants. However, I think it is important there is no report, including the one the member is referring to, that indicates the water quality is not safe. This applies to the Toronto area or anywhere else in Ontario for that matter. No report says it is anything other than safe, healthy and completely sound to drink under all circumstances. If that is not the case I will be the first to tell the member, but the reality is if we can find—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: I wish you had cut off the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). He got away with—

Mr. Speaker: I am trying to make up time.

Mr. Peterson: This minister sounds very much like Ronald Reagan talking about acid rain until he is pounded on the head. However, he should look at the line on page 8 of the report which says: "The use of this estimate does not imply that consumption of Toronto's water

causes cancer. However, it is intended to stress that there are risks associated with drinking water."

Clearly, there are some risks and there is a need for further research and an active attack on this problem. This report admits these trace levels of certain toxins for the first time.

Given the major breakthrough of this report and the major step forward, to which I am sure the minister will admit, will he now adopt the posture of an active attack on this problem, not just in spending \$300,000 a year for three years on a miniature pilot public relations program in Niagara?

Will he use his good offices to try to restore the budget cuts that were made in his ministry last year by his friend the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), to make sure we launch an active attack on that problem here? We have the technology, it is a proven technology and it needs only a commitment from the minister and his government. Will he give us that commitment?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The levels of contamination the Leader of the Opposition is talking about are certainly not at a serious level that would indicate this province should now make a commitment to him, in a rather arbitrary fashion, that we are going to spend literally hundreds of millions of dollars without knowing whether it is even necessary or appropriate to put in the more sophisticated filtration systems he is talking about.

I want to reiterate that the report that has just been released is a 170-page report; it is new to the point that my ministry has not even had an opportunity to review it in detail. I am sure his people do not know the detail of this report, either.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I am sure they do.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Oh, they do not, because you have not had an opportunity to analyse it in detail.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, given the seriousness of the information contained in the report and the very real recommendations the report makes with respect to the drinking water of the city of Toronto, can the minister tell us why he is downplaying the information in the report? In particular, why, for example, is he downplaying the finding that there was an increase in infant mortality and neonatal mortality significantly correlated with overall water mutagenicity?

So the minister will know what that means, as the water becomes more contaminated with

chemicals, as the drinking water of Lake Ontario has become, there is a significant correlation between that chemical contamination and the increase in infant mortality and neonatal mortality. Toronto's water has relatively high mutagenicity compared with that of other municipalities in Ontario.

This is serious information. Why is the minister downplaying the importance of this information?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, in no way am I downplaying the importance of the information, but I have to tell the member again there is nothing in this report that indicates there are any contaminants contained in the drinking water of the city of Toronto or the Metro area that are anything other than totally safe.

The report will be analysed in detail by my staff, but at this time we have absolutely no reason to indicate the kind of concern the member is expressing in this House. Frankly, I think it is bordering on irresponsibility to indicate to the people of this area there is something wrong with this drinking water, which I can assure the member I drink in good health and without any concern every day.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, the minister will recognize his ministry was going around pointing out that a good number of the 20th century chemicals that were pointed out as being present in Lake Ontario at the time Pollution Probe made a report on the drinking water in Toronto were being taken out by attaching themselves to particles in the water and were therefore being successfully filtered out by the standard treatment process. In fact, people in his ministry were indicating, as I understand it, that no trace elements were getting through the processes now in effect.

2:40 p.m.

Will the minister now admit publicly that the treatment facilities in place here in Ontario are not meeting 20th century treatment needs? Will he endeavour to put into effect, as my leader has requested, an updated program to deal with the 20th century difficulties that have been created by the introduction of new and toxic chemicals into our waters?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the investment this government is making in the Niagara Falls area is one in which we hope to be able to determine the propriety of that particular technology to see whether it is even necessary and whether it will work as effectively as the member thinks it will.

Two cities in North America have the carbon filtration process in place. Because of high contamination of the water in those areas, there were specific reasons for putting the carbon filtration process into place there. They are the cities of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Cincinnati, Ohio.

I can only share again with the member the fact that we are quite prepared to move into this type of technology if it is proved necessary. However, I am not going to commit the government today to a tremendously large expenditure of money, particularly without concurrence and without further discussion with the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). I am not going to do this until I am assured it is absolutely necessary.

Again, I want to say to the leader of the third party, to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and to my critic in the opposition that there is no evidence whatever indicating this technology is necessary at this time.

Thank you for another glass of water.

Mr. Rae: The minister can clown around all he likes, but the fact of the matter remains that the report itself states that "there are also vast uncertainties." This is not the blanket statement the minister made. The report talks about "vast uncertainties" about the health effects of many chemicals which have been detected in drinking water.

The report outlines those that are known; however, our knowledge is very incomplete. The report goes on to say that we cannot dismiss these seemingly low concentrations as being insignificant because we simply do not know.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Given the kind of approach taken by the department of public health of the city of Toronto, the kind of attitude they are expressing, how can the minister possibly justify the blasé approach which says there is nothing wrong, there is no problem, all we need to spend is \$1 million out of the \$314 million in his budget on this kind of small project which is going on, on a purely experimental basis, and which is less than anything being done in United States cities?

How can he say this is going to be adequate? How can he possibly justify taking this kind of a blasé approach when the report contains this kind of information?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Quite easily. The reality is that today there are very sophisticated measuring techniques whereby we are able to measure in parts per trillion, as opposed to the parts per million or per billion measurements that were used some years ago, even as short as a year or

two ago. The reality is that we can measure at far more precise levels than the information we are able to get in terms of what the impact of this is on the health of a human being.

The member is quite correct in suggesting there is a great deal of information we do not have with regard to some of the questions today. However, the reality is we are able to measure at much lower levels, which makes the precision of the testing that much finer than anything we have had before.

We have never denied there are trace or background levels of some certain types of contamination in the water. However, there is no evidence—and I want to repeat this—whatever to indicate those trace or background levels are unsafe in any way, shape or form. I want this to stand on the record.

Mr. Rae: All I can say is that the report, when faced with the situation, shows a lot more humility and a lot more concern about what real scientific evidence is all about than the Minister of the Environment has shown today in the House. I think Hansard should show this.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: One of the sources that has been identified as a significant problem has to do with the fish which exist today in Metropolitan Toronto.

Is the minister aware of the real backlog in sewage separation that exists today in Metropolitan Toronto? Is he aware, for example, that it is going to cost the city of York an estimated additional \$90 million, which the minister knows it does not have, to separate its sewers? It is going to cost \$35 million for the borough of East York to do the same. The runoff problem, from the Don River, which borders East York, and the Humber River, which borders the city of York, has been identified as a very real source of concern.

What is holding up the minister from introducing a kind of capital assistance program to allow the cities and boroughs in Metropolitan Toronto to do the kind of sewage separation that would begin to reduce the amount of contamination going into Lake Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The committee set up by Metro to deal with this very problem indicated publicly that it was more than satisfied with the response of the province, this government and the ministry I am responsible for.

We have accelerated our expenditures and our investments in the very programs the member is asking about. We have indicated our complete

co-operation with Metro Toronto in the cleanup of the separation problem it faces.

I would like to suggest that one of the missing players in this whole problem happens to be the government in Ottawa. If Ottawa put some money into the program, perhaps we could then accelerate the program even more, but at the present time we are still awaiting further word from that government to determine whether it is prepared to make the kind of commitment we have already made.

Mr. Elston: The minister will understand that members of his ministry were in Ottawa at a drinking water conference in January. At least one of his officials spent a good deal of time defending the quality of Toronto's drinking water, indicating there was absolutely nothing wrong, espousing the ministry's old line that all the dangerous contaminants settle out and are not present in the post-treatment drinking water.

Will the minister now make available to Metro and to others who need to know the information his ministry officials were able to pick up from the experts from around the world who also attended the conference? These people have been trained and have introduced systems in Switzerland and West Germany and in some places in Scandinavia. They have recommended that Ontario should adopt this new technology to deal with what even the minister calls trace elements of contaminants in our drinking water.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The technology we have in place and the water quality levels we deem to be appropriate are constantly under review by this minister and this government in consultation with local authorities and also with the federal government. I have no difficulty whatever in sharing that kind of information with the local authorities and consulting them, as we always do on these matters, nor do I have difficulty in giving that undertaking.

Mr. Rae: The report states very clearly that there are risks associated with drinking the water in Toronto. There are also four very specific recommendations to the Ministry of the Environment that the report addresses, in addition to a number of other recommendations that are made with respect to the United States and what is flowing into the Niagara River and so on.

Is the minister prepared to say today the Ministry of the Environment will act on those four concerns and will provide the city with the kind of assistance it is looking for in order to establish a state of the art in terms of control of emissions, control of stuff that is getting into the water and the disinfection of sewage treatment?

Is the minister prepared to make at least those commitments today with respect to the future safety of drinking water in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: No, I am not. I am prepared, however, to give an undertaking to the leader of the third party that we will analyse the 170-page report in detail. There are some questions that have been raised by some of my technical staff with respect to the testing protocols and some of the information contained in that report.

We may have a response to that report—in all probability we will—which will be a critique of the report. Certainly, we are not in agreement with all aspects of the report, and I think one would expect we would do just that. I will get back to the member with respect to my ministry's response to the report. As I have indicated earlier, it is a new, detailed, complex and complicated report, and I am quite prepared to get back to the member, specifically with respect to the four recommendations.

2:50 p.m.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I am sure the minister is aware of the resolution passed almost unanimously last Wednesday by the directors of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which demands the immediate enactment of a provincial red meat stabilization program.

It had a final sentence that reads as follows: "Further be it resolved that if a meaningful payment plan of 100 per cent of total cost of production, including labour at zero equity, is not implemented within 30 days, the OFA demand the immediate resignation or dismissal of Mr. Dennis Timbrell, Mr. Bill Doyle and Mr. Larry Grossman."

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister not realize the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the farmers do not pass that kind of resolution unless they are desperate and unless they are convinced this government has rejected their legitimate requests and has callously ignored their plight? Is he now going to accede to their request and implement immediately a provincial stabilization plan, with payment equal to that of the other red meat producing provinces and with a retroactive component as demanded by the OFA?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be in such distinguished company as my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and

my very able assistant deputy minister, Mr. Doyle. I learned of this resolution last Wednesday night. I had been in Ridgetown that night for the Rotary rural-urban night. I got home about midnight and took a call from the president of the federation. When I told my wife, she said, "Does that mean we get the summer off?" Not everybody received it the same way the member did.

Two years ago I began the process leading towards—I do not want to sound immodest—the development of the tripartite stabilization plan, which will be in effect this year. It was begun by this government. At that time, I insisted that all the affected and interested producer organizations be involved, our own beef, pork, sheep producers and our own federation, along with their national counterparts and the National Farmers' Union.

From the outset it was made very clear, not only by certain other provinces, but particularly by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association that they would not support in any way, shape or form, the formula proposed in the resolution passed last Wednesday at the monthly meeting of the OFA board.

Mr. Swart: The hog producers.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is right. The Canadian Pork Council was looking for a cost of production formula, but along the way in developing a national consensus and getting the agreement of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan—and we think other provinces will join when this agreement is finalized in July at the annual meeting of ministers—that has been something which in the process of the negotiations had to be set to one side. If we had insisted on it, we never would have got any agreement of any kind. That is the first thing.

Secondly, if the member takes into account the \$57 million payment made by Ontario in 1981 to all beef producers and the moneys expended on the farm adjustment assistance program, in fact there has been little, if any, difference between the support offered since 1981 by this government and the support offered by governments in other parts of Canada.

Plans such as the one at present in existence in Saskatchewan, which will be phased out with the introduction of the tripartite stabilization program, are premium-based programs. The producers have to contribute premiums to the program and thereby assume responsibility for their share of the deficit. The deficit in the Saskatchewan plan is now \$30 million, for which the producers are partly responsible.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister not realize that when he promised a tripartite program he led the producers to believe it would be implemented in the near future? Last September he said it would be in before the end of the year. In November he said it would be only a few weeks until the details would be in place. It has gone on and on. The farmers have changed their minds and they now want a provincial program.

Let me ask the minister specifically whether it is not true that the enrolment in the tripartite program, if it ever comes, is proposed for some time towards the end of the year or next April and during the first year only part of the stabilization payments will be made in Ontario. What help will that be to the farmers of this province? It is okay for the other provinces where they have red meat programs that carry on. Does the minister propose extra payments by Ontario or a supplementary plan so that payments will start at once? Or is he satisfied to let the plan be phased in over 1984-1985 with Ontario producers once again at a tremendous disadvantage compared with producers in those other provinces?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As I said before, I have in front of me letters from the president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and a copy of a telex from the chairman of the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board. Both gentlemen, representing all beef and hog producers in Ontario, are supporting the tripartite program as it has been developed and as it will be agreed to at the annual ministers' meeting in July.

In conclusion, I re-emphasize that the support already given by this government since 1981, including the emergency payment in late 1981 and the farm adjustment assistance program since late 1981, early 1982, makes the assistance of this government roughly comparable to that afforded in those provinces about which the member is concerned.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I am a little surprised that the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) would make reference to a resolution when he does not even take the time to attend the odd directors' meeting of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to understand what is behind some of these resolutions.

Interjections.

Mr. Riddell: As a matter of interest, I was at the last directors' meeting.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mel was shopping.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please

Mr. Riddell: The minister is no doubt aware that Ontario leads the nation in the proportion of

total Farm Credit Corp. loans and arrears, with payments outstanding on 30 per cent of these loans, which he must realize is a clear indication of the extent farmers are suffering in this province. The minister must surely realize by now the one reason for the high level of arrears in FCC farm loans in Ontario is that other provinces offer their farmers more comprehensive interest assistance and financial support programs than Ontario does.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

3 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: Moreover, while the minister has been promising a tripartite stabilization plan since he took office some two years ago, and it has yet to see the light of day, does he not feel he has an obligation to help our farming community recover from its current recession? Has the minister discussed with the Treasurer the immediate need for a financial assistance program for our red meat producers, which should be introduced in the upcoming budget? I ask that recognizing the Treasurer went out into the country not too long ago and told farmers he was surprised at the plight of the red meat industry in this province. It appeared he was going to do something about it.

Has the minister been discussing with the Treasurer what kind of assistance he can give to the red meat producers in this province?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, we have certainly been discussing the needs of the agricultural industry. I would point out that this Treasurer and his predecessor have been extremely helpful to me, over the course of the last 26 months that I have been the Minister of Agriculture and Food, in approving a variety of programs aimed at assisting the agricultural industry. These include the beginning farmers assistance program, extension of the farm adjustment assistance program, introduction of our proposals for agribonds, changes in the municipal tax rebate program and on and on.

If one looks at the record over the last two years and the programs introduced by this government with the assistance and active co-operation of the Treasurer and his predecessor, I think one can only conclude that the commitment of this government to agriculture remains very high.

Regarding programs in other provinces, there are many programs we have in Ontario that they do not have in other provinces and vice versa. We do not try to match them program for program, nor do they try to match us.

Not only have we taken the lead in the area of stabilization but we have also taken the lead in this country in proposing to the federal government a joint federal-provincial program under the agribond umbrella for tackling the problems of the farm community with respect to more affordable long-term debt. It is not for lack of effort on our part and it is certainly not for a lack of commitment on our part.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that the minister has been proposing schemes to Ottawa at a time when other governments have actually been doing something. Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec each have plans with respect to price supports.

How can the minister justify his statement in September when he said a plan was going to be introduced in the fall? How can he justify his statement in November when he said he was over the hump in terms of getting a plan into effect?

The failure to introduce a plan in 1983-84 has cost the red meat producers of this province \$120 million in money they should have received in price supports from this government. How can the minister possibly justify that kind of delay and the gobbledegook that has gone on for more than a year in his promising to do something for the red meat producers?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know where the honourable member gets the figure of \$120 million. If we are talking about justifying things, I would like to see his calculations for that. It seems it is something he has pulled out of mid-air.

Second, there have been countless meetings to discuss tripartite stabilization because there have been many obstacles to overcome, not the least being the lack of support from the members opposite. They have given no support or assistance at all in overcoming some of those obstacles when I have asked them to do so.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Whom was I pointing to?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development with respect to his favourite topic with which he is struggling: freedom of information.

Is the provincial secretary aware of the report that six ministries of the Ontario government have sent form letters to the federal authorities to thwart the release of any intergovernmental information under the federal Access to Informa-

tion Act? Does the minister know that each of the letters wants secrecy for the ministry and for an appended list of related organizations, such as, in the example of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, every college and university, a number of commissions and corporations and all Ontario school boards?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the number of ministries that have written to the federal government in relation to its access to information and privacy act. I did advise various ministries of the implications of the federal act and said that if they sought protection for sensitive information they should contact the people in Ottawa with whom they are sharing their information.

Mr. Breithaupt: Since the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has with its list a two-page attachment that includes 14 institutions, including the Ontario Grain Corn Council and the Ontario Stock Yards Board, eight advisory agencies, eight appeal and review boards such as the Wolf Damage Assessment Board, three financial protection plan boards and every marketing board, will the minister responsible for freedom of information review this situation and take on his responsibility finally to bring in a bill on freedom of information that would stop this nonsense?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I will certainly review the matter.

COST OF NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. The minister will now have had an opportunity to read the letter I sent to him and his colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow).

Has the minister finished the study of a barge service to serve the communities along the shores of Hudson Bay and James Bay to bring down the high cost of living? What does he think of a situation in this province whereby a gallon of gas costs \$6.20, four litres of naphtha cost \$9.95, four litres of kerosene cost \$8.89 and one litre of motor oil costs \$3.80?

When is he going to implement the recommendations that were in the Task Force Study of Transportation and Living Costs in the Far North to redress these terrible situations in the province?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for sending me a copy of the letter received from the Fort Severn Indian band in which those points were outlined.

As the member has correctly pointed out, we made an intensive study of the cost of living in that remote area of northern Ontario. It made a number of recommendations we are proceeding with. One is the continuation of the winter road program. The member will allow me to inform the House that this program has gone exceptionally well this year, with the road going from Moosonee to Attawapiskat and from Pickle Lake to Round Lake. We have had some difficulty with the road from Round Lake to Sandy Lake as the member well knows. We have subsidized the Windigo chiefs in putting the tractor-train route between Round Lake, Muskrat Dam, Bearskin Lake and on to Big Trout Lake.

We have also prevailed upon the federal government to assist the Pehtabun chiefs in the Sandy Lake area to cut the tractor-train route overland. This will see about 80 per cent of that winter road cut overland between Sandy Lake, Pikangikum and the Nungesser road. There is a lot of activity with respect to the winter roads program.

The study with respect to barging is nearing completion. We have had numerous discussions with people in the general area. I am pleased to report there is some interest from the private sector in putting on a barge from Moosonee, going up the west coast of Hudson Bay. I hope to have something positive to say about that within the next short period.

We have prevailed upon Canada Post Corp. as strongly as we can to continue its third class rate for the transportation of foodstuffs into that remote area of northern Ontario. We have encouraged the native co-ops to pool their buying power. We all know what is happening in the Pickle Lake area, where they are pooling together and causing some concern in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There are all kinds of things going on and we are addressing the situation as seriously as we can.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Is the minister saying he endorses the application of the Windigo tribal council to get central purchasing and buying that might work to the detriment of the people in Pickle Lake?

When is the minister going to do something tangible? He has spent \$20 million on an airstrip program in the north, and the cost of goods keeps escalating. There is somebody in the middle. I do not know whether it is the carriers, Hudson's Bay Co. or who it is, but the benefits that should have

accrued as a result of an expenditure of \$20 million on the airstrip program did not go to the people they were designed to serve.

The minister has an excellent opportunity to implement this barge system to redress the inequities along the coastal community. Why does he not do that? Winter roads do not apply up there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member will be very much aware that the cost of living has accelerated considerably over the last several years. I can tell him that, had it not been for the \$20 million we put into the airstrip program, the price of foodstuffs in that area would be triple what it is today.

So there has been some effect, and he knows as well as I do that this effect is real and very tangible. We are continuing our efforts and are working very closely with the native bands in trying to resolve the situation.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, is the minister suggesting that the study to which he made reference is going to give some kind of break to the residents of Attawapiskat in the tremendously high costs they have to pay for food? Is he suggesting that the study he referred to is going to come up with a solution? Is he going to do something like giving them a tax break or some kind of accommodation to meet those very high food costs?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member is aware that most of the foodstuffs are now flown into those remote areas by Canada Post; so the best rate possible is being applied to the transportation of foodstuffs.

What we are talking about here, and what the member for Lake Nipigon has brought up, is the high cost of transporting bulk commodities such as building materials and fuel, and we are trying to address that problem as quickly as we can.

AID TO TOURISM

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Treasurer. The Treasurer by now should have a good window on the various sectors of Ontario's economy through his prebudget consultations with various industry and trade groups. He has been made aware of the shocking reality that exists within our provincial tourism sector, where revenues have fallen so dramatically that the result last year was the worst deficit ever recorded for this sector, which is likely to be some \$683 million.

Given that the inability of our provincial tourism sector to recover can be traced to the fact that we cannot compete with other jurisdictions

because of the overtaking and therefore overpricing of both products and services, will the Treasurer be addressing the problems specific to this sector in the 1984 budget, such as the tax on alcohol paid by licensees; reconsidering the inflationary effect of our ad valorem tax on gasoline, and especially the ripoff on Highway 401; reducing his sales tax on prepared meals; and eliminating the double taxation of disposable items in hotel and motel rooms, all of which would reduce the costs of those things to out-of-country visitors and to Ontarians themselves holidaying in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, of course we will be reviewing the impact of all those things on the tourism industry. My colleague the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) has discussed literally each and every one of those items—and, indeed, more—with me at some length. In addition, Tourism Ontario has given us what perhaps is one of the best prebudget submissions we received out of the 55 prebudget meetings we have had.

What we always have to consider in this circumstance, of course, is which of those is going to make a real difference. Those changes that might sacrifice revenue with no fundamental impact on the tourism industry would be imprudent things to do. On the other hand, if a series of those changes might have a real impact, then it would be incumbent upon us to look at those options.

From my time as Minister of Industry and Tourism, I can well appreciate the fact that there is a great return on some of those tourism investments. In point of fact, I know the honourable member would want us to husband some money to increase our tourism advertising budget, as he so often has encouraged us to do.

Mr. Eakins: I just point out to the Treasurer that Tourism Ontario always gives a good prebudget presentation, but he does not do anything about it.

Given that our largest market after Ontario residents themselves is visitors from the United States but that their numbers have fallen sharply since 1981; and given that US tourists alone bring in more than \$1 billion in revenue to this province, will the Treasurer be implementing specific measures to recapture the US market this year?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is no one in Tourism Ontario who would endorse the statement the member for Victoria-Haliburton has just made that we do nothing about their submissions.

Mr. McClellan: Right on. There is no one in Tourism Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I hope that remark of the member for Bellwoods is on the record.

I have had the chance to review these submissions over the past few years, and here are just the things I can think of immediately: my predecessor took off the accommodation tax for several years; he took off retail sales tax on furniture and equipment for the tourism industry; he introduced the small business development corporation program, which has been very helpful.

He also introduced, with ourselves, the tourism redevelopment incentive program. Through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, under his chairmanship, we introduced a number of programs that have greatly assisted the tourism industry. Not only did they reflect his own commitment to the industry but they also reflected many ideas brought to us by Tourism Ontario. I can assure the member that this year, as in others, the report of Tourism Ontario will be given a great deal of consideration by us.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This has been sent to me by approximately 100 people from the riding of Quinte and is signed by them.

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have another one of my notorious petitions here.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bill of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores."

Naturellement, M. le Président, vous voudriez que je lise cette pétition alors en français également, pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

This petition is signed by 124 people. That brings the total close to 1,000 by now, I guess.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 97 electors of Hamilton West to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned electors, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right. Parents of these schools also face a form of financial jeopardy through a lack of access to the taxes they pay in support of education.

"We ask you to change the situation."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 43, An Act to amend the Off-Road Vehicles Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Miss Stephenson moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Bernier, first reading of Bill 44, An

Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on February 21, 1983, I indicated to the honourable members at the time of the passage of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Amendment Act, 1983, that I would appoint a commissioner to inquire into and report on the principle of the discretionary local levy and related matters as it is used by boards of education within Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Bruce C. Bone was appointed as a commissioner and his terms of reference were to consider: one, for each of the elementary and secondary levels whether for any board of education within Metropolitan Toronto the amount of money generated by the application of the appropriate mill rate to the assessment roll for 1983 does provide sufficient flexibility for a board to meet needs that are considered unique by the board in the year 1984 and in subsequent years; and two, whether an alternative method for providing flexibility to the boards of education within Metropolitan Toronto to meet needs that are unique to each board might be more appropriate and, if so, what these methods might be.

On October 31, Mr. Bruce C. Bone submitted the report of the commission, in which he made eight recommendations. This act will provide the amendments to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, part VIII, Education, required to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission to Inquire into the Discretionary Local Levy for Education in Metropolitan Toronto, namely the Bone commission.

We are proceeding with this bill because of the strong support for seven of the eight recommendations received from all of the school boards and the municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto. Recommendation 5, which concerns payments in lieu, which was not supported by those boards or municipalities, is not included in the bill.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 45, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to have my three bills on the Orders and Notices in a row, but my friend the Minister of Education

(Miss Stephenson) kind of slipped in on me there.

Mr. Roy: We find her pushy at times, too.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just before I call the orders of the day, I might indicate that there has been a change in the printed business for today. After order 6 and before order 7, we are going to deal with Bill 13, An Act to amend the Ombudsman Act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

COUNTY COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved third reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend the County Courts Act.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say just one word. I know my good friend the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) would like this to pass quickly, but I would just like to remind him again that I think this particular amendment, which increases the jurisdiction from \$15,000 to \$25,000, is not sufficient and should be increased much more, in my opinion. I outlined my reason for saying that on second reading.

I say again I think it is unfortunate and at times somewhat demeaning to that bench just to give it, in a civil jurisdiction, \$25,000, and that is unfortunately being exploited by certain members of the profession, especially those representing insurance companies and large corporations.

I trust the Attorney General will look at this and give consideration to bringing it to a level that is more in keeping with the competence and the expertise we have on that bench, without demeaning in any fashion the judges of the Supreme Court.

Motion agreed to.

WINE CONTENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, third reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Wine Content Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:30 p.m.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved third reading of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Justices of the Peace Act.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to indicate to the assembly that my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr.

McClellan) and I spoke with respect to second reading of the bill, very much concerned about the overhauling of the Justices of the Peace Act.

It is interesting to note that on the second reading debate the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry)—and I drew this to his attention some time ago—stated in reply to all the comments made by my colleagues and other members of the assembly, “It would appear some of the members opposite were not in the House when I introduced this legislation, because I indicated clearly we were going to introduce ‘a complete revision of the Justices of the Peace Act later this session.’ That was clearly stated. I regret that some of the members were absent for that statement.”

I refer anyone who may be interested now or in the future to page 209 of Hansard, March 29, when the Attorney General introduced the bill. There is no reference whatsoever in his statement to an introduction of a complete revision of the Justices of the Peace Act later this session. I knew the House would be interested in having that explanation for the degree of concern expressed by my colleagues in this party and others with respect to the bill.

Of course, that is entirely separate and distinct from what relations the Attorney General may have with the press. I understand he did indicate to the media he was going to introduce a complete revision of the bill, but he did not happen to include it in his statement to the House on that occasion. I knew the House would be interested.

Apart from that, and now knowing there will be a complete revision of the Justices of the Peace Act introduced to this assembly for consideration during this session, before the end of June, we are quite happy to agree to third reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the member for Riverdale for pointing this out to me. I certainly had forgotten I had not read all of the statement that was prepared for me on that occasion. I apologize for the misstatement I obviously made to the House during second reading.

Motion agreed to.

COURTS OF JUSTICE ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved third reading of Bill 100, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law respecting the Organization, Operation and Proceedings of Courts of Justice in Ontario.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, we made extensive comments on second reading of this bill. I apologize, I may not have been here, so I ask my

colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), who is keeping close tabs on statements made in and out of the House, did the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) say when he expected to see the new rules enacted, following the passage of this legislation?

Perhaps the Attorney General will make a statement on that.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the new rules have been prepared and I think we will be able to distribute them in the very near future, so far as the profession is concerned. Obviously, there is going to be a very significant educational component required before Bill 100 is proclaimed, which may not be until later in the year.

Motion agreed to.

ARCHITECTS ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved third reading of Bill 122, An Act to revise the Architects Act.

Motion agreed to.

House in committee of the whole.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ACT (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned consideration of Bill 123, An Act to revise the Professional Engineers Act.

On section 2:

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Chairman, I am asking for Hansard. I believe I moved the amendment to section 2 and I was in the midst of concluding my remarks in relation to the amendment that had been moved. That is my recollection.

Mr. Chairman: Fine.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Chairman, if you look at Hansard on page 628, the minister had made his motion and his remarks. I had almost completed mine as well.

I will not rehash what had been brought before the House on the evening of April 10, other than to say the committee had unanimously made these amendments to the bill as a result of hearing the evidence from organizations that had been involved.

We accepted the view of the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers that these two amendments were reasonable in the circumstances. For a review of what has been said in Hansard, I refer members to page 629 and my observations that at the time the members for Oriole (Mr. Williams), Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) and Carleton East (Mr. MacQuarrie) were in favour

of these amendments. Indeed, they were moved by the member for Oriole.

The amendments having been placed before the committee, we came to the conclusion this change was a reasonable and progressive one. We tried to sort out the differing attitudes between the organizations. The changes we accepted are the ones the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) now proposes to wipe out of the bill.

The bill was reported back to committee with unanimous support in the standing committee on administration of justice. The one subsection continued only because of an insurance plan and a requirement to deal with certain matters. That is the amendment to subsection 2(6).

It is, however, the amendment to the other subsection which is the more important one to refer to. In that item, that is to say subsection 2(5), we came to the conclusion that certain powers should be placed under a rein, under certain control, because it was felt that the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, as the licensing body, should not be carrying on some of the general projects the service organizations should do in their educational and other aspects.

3:40 p.m.

That was the conclusion we reached, having heard the evidence. I recognize a strong approach has been taken by the APEO that this is an untoward restriction on it as a professional organization. They are of the view that they should not have this imposition. From their view of their responsibilities to the profession as a whole, that is understandable. They are upwards of 40,000 members strong and they have come to this view.

The CSPE, however, was persistent. We accepted its view that this was a reasonable situation that would set the tone of operations between the APEO and service organizations such as the CSPE and that it would be beneficial to the profession as a whole. I hope my colleagues on the committee would say I have represented in as balanced a way as I can the views the committee agreed upon.

I recognize this has been a lengthy situation, for which the Attorney General has had the responsibility of supervision and introduction, and that members of his staff have had much detailed work to do as they have attempted to sort out in Bills 122 and 123 the differing areas of concern, development and interaction of architects and engineers in Ontario. I congratulate the Attorney General for having the kind of quality in staff persons such as Mr. Fram and others who

have lived with this legislation for a very long time. I am sure he and others are glad to see it proceeding through the House.

In no way do I quarrel with the attempt to sort out the variety of interests in the many professional organizations that have developed in the engineering field. While a person must be a member of the APEO, it is my understanding that all the other associations are voluntary. There are several dozen, depending upon a person's specialty, interest, location or whether or not he or she is an employee, in the teaching profession and so on. There are a great variety of interest organizations. Many members are involved in a half dozen or more, depending upon their particular interests.

We on the committee thought the licensing body in this instance should be seen quite clearly as separate from the variety of service organizations that exist, based on the interests of members. I hope the result of the debate this afternoon, even though it may not be referred to often by anyone in the future, will be to show that concern, so that there will not be any heavy-handed dealings between the groups and that they will involve each other in some goodwill for the future of their profession.

Those responsible officials in the APEO recognize the view of the committee that it should give a little to set the tone of operation of its profession. This would encourage the service organizations to do the kind of things we thought in that discussion they could do best. I hope that will be the end result of this exercise, that positions will not become hardened in either case and that co-operation for the good of this most important profession in our province will result.

Because of the comments made by the APEO and other contacts, the Attorney General has decided not to accept the amendments we have unanimously put forward. I find that regrettable. What we attempted to do would have been a suitable and useful balance. I hope the end result will still be for the positive development of this most important profession.

We will oppose the Attorney General's approach on these amendments. When a unanimous report comes from a committee of the House, having heard the evidence on a particular subject, I think it is worthy of acceptance by the House. I regret that is not happening in this instance. Having made that comment, however, all we can do is acknowledge the power of the government whip in this matter and be prepared to stand up in committee against the amendments proposed by the Attorney General.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, in the dénouement of the bill before the assembly, I did want to express as briefly as I can the concern I have about the amendments introduced by the Attorney General. I do so simply because I have a number of fundamental and basic concerns about professional associations in Ontario and the legislation governing them, which far predate this bill.

It is essential that the committee of the whole House understand what the standing committee on administration of justice was dealing with when Bill 123 was in front of it. The question of the governance of the professions in the province is one that will not go away. It is one that will haunt this assembly until such time as we get it straightened out.

The principle is simple, clear and fundamental. A body that is granted the exclusive jurisdiction to govern a profession by delegation from this assembly, such as the Law Society of Upper Canada or the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, has to understand very clearly there is no room for any confusion between the private interests of the members of that profession and the public duty and obligation imposed by this assembly in the grant of self-government and exclusive jurisdiction with respect to admission, governance and discipline.

I would not have assumed that fundamental point would have to be restated. I had assumed anyone who has looked at the question of professional organizations in Ontario would say the delegation, the privilege of self-governance and exclusive jurisdiction for admission to a body within the society from this assembly would mean the public interest, not the private interest, must always predominate.

It is surprising that professional men and women seem to be incapable of believing that what serves the private interests of individuals is not necessarily consistent with their public obligation. It needs to be restated time and again.

In my own profession I was shocked to receive a communication from the convocation of the Law Society of Upper Canada at the time amendments to the Law Society Act were coming before the assembly. It said the society would be representing to the Attorney General that the legal profession be allowed to have its accounts paid by credit cards.

There may be some people who in some way can make an esoteric argument that it is in the interest of the clients of lawyers to be able to use their credit cards. I do not happen to believe that is other than a superficial and esoteric argument

that has no standing. It was the private interest of that profession being put forward by the public governing body of that profession.

We have enough problems with this question of conflict of interest for members of professions, not only with respect to their governing bodies but with respect to the discharge of their professional obligations.

3:50 p.m.

In the standing committee on administration of justice, among other duties we were charged with during the recess of the assembly, we finished the question of the trust companies. We politely invited those who believed they had an interest in the white paper on trust companies to come before the committee. If there ever was a question of conflict of interest that had to be resolved, it needed to be resolved in front of the committee.

We heard nothing whatsoever from the Law Society of Upper Canada on the question; so we politely wrote and requested a response from them. We also requested their attendance before the committee. No one came before us. We did receive a lengthy reply from the undertreasurer of the society which said absolutely nothing.

This assembly will never know or understand what conflicts there might have been between public and private responsibility on the part of individual members of the profession in the discharge of their duties with trust companies. I refer to those members who were serving the various companies involved in this province's trust company fiasco.

Neither is there any indication whatsoever, in response to the white paper, the Morrison report and all the public concern expressed, that the law society is doing anything about this matter of conflict. There is no indication this governing body is taking action with respect to examining the conflicts of interest and the roles played by members of the legal profession within that esoteric world of the Greymac, Seaway and Crown Trust fiasco.

This comment is just a preliminary to my other brief remarks on this amendment proposed by the Attorney General. He is suggesting that in some way or other we should accept his deletion from the bill of clauses that were agreed to unanimously by the committee.

It is essential in all professional bodies in this province, such as the APEO, to be certain they can clearly distinguish between the public responsibility devolving on them by this act and the private interest of their individual members.

Where did the problem arise? It did not suddenly arise at the last minute in the hearings of the committee. The actual resolution of the problem took place on March 7. This was after we had heard all the representations, which were preceded by the report of the Professional Organizations Committee chaired by the former Deputy Attorney General. They also were preceded by the McRuer report of many years ago which dealt with the whole question of the governance of professional organizations. We were dealing with clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.

Over the years we have been working together, that committee has basically been operating on a nonpartisan basis. It has worked in a co-operative, intelligent way through the committee structure to produce the best bill we knew how to produce.

We heard all the concerns. We heard them not only in the leadup to the bill—and the gestation period has been forever—but during the time we heard the public presentations. It was very clear there were serious problems in the engineering profession. There were serious problems with respect to the disparate group the bill was attempting to cover by this one umbrella.

Probably the first occasion was when the Attorney General agreed to exclude something called the scientists from the purview of this bill. He did this even though many of the scientists were engaged in the very same work as professional engineers. We agreed with that as an interim solution. I and others expressed concern about how the whole question of the vast field covered by the engineering profession—the scientific aspects of it as well as the applied aspects—would be dealt with in future.

Within the profession itself we found a very diverse and distinctive number of groupings that over the years had come in conflict with their governing body even to the point where, regardless of the legal reason for doing so, which was put before the assembly, the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario sued the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers because the CSPE was using the name “engineer” in advertisements, on letterheads and in publications. It had been reduced to a kind of confrontation whereby those problems could not be resolved.

All of us have had representations made to us by bodies within the association. The APEO, starting immediately after the committee hearing on March 7, if I may say so with great respect to the president of the APEO, sent a most intemper-

ate letter to the Attorney General and a similar, relatively intemperate letter to the members of the assembly with respect to the way the committee had conducted itself.

We heard that representation. We have heard further representations from the CSPE, which has been in constant contact with members of the assembly over the years in anticipation of the problems that were surfacing within the professional body and which were being solved by the committee. There were no johnny-come-latelies. They did not suddenly appear on our doorstep to raise a question about which none of us was familiar.

My file, and I am sure so are the files of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the files of my colleague the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), is about several inches thick with information from the past two or three years, indicating the fundamental, basic concerns about divorcing within the professional organization of engineers the private interest pursuits of the members of that profession from their public obligations.

A number of criticisms were made before the committee. It all finally came up when we were dealing with clause-by-clause consideration of the bill. The committee unanimously supported the amendment introduced by the member for Oriole, who I notice is not here today. There was support from the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, who was most co-operative and contributory throughout all the hearings of the standing committee on administration of justice, with comments by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) and the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor). I am sorry to say none of them is in the House today when this important matter is before us for consideration.

It was the member for Oriole who introduced the amendment. When I say that, it is not that the member for Oriole introduced an amendment out of the blue. It was the result of a discussion that went on during the morning of March 7 and during the recess at noon, as is often the case. There was an endeavour to pull the matter together in a way that would be acceptable to everybody.

The committee agreed to reopen section 2 of the bill which we had already passed, because the discussion had come up in an esoteric way under section 8, and to deal with this question. I personally thought by making the professional association aware of the extent and limitation of the powers being granted by the assembly the

matter had been ended, as far as it was possible for us to do so, and that we had a successful solution to a difficult problem.

I have great respect for the advisers of the ministry who have worked for a long time on the bill. I do not believe for a single moment they are behind this impetus for the Attorney General to remove these clauses with respect to this bill.

4 p.m.

What we were trying to say as clearly as we were able to the professional organization was: "When you are exercising your functions you must look to your objects. You cannot go off on a frolic of your own. You cannot pretend somehow or other that you are a benevolent organization designed to further the private interests of the members, disguised as their obligation to perform their public duties."

The legalities of it are clear. The principal object of the association is spelled out in subsection 2(3). Subsection 2(4) is an elaboration of that principal object with the ancillary objects also put forward. We then simply said, as a warning to that association in the amendments the Attorney General now wants to delete, "It is not within the power of the association to provide a service for its members that is not related to the carrying out of the objects of the association."

We were very careful in subsection 2(6) not to upset what had been established and in existence, and we provided in subsection 2(6) that subsection 2(5) "does not apply in respect of a service that is provided by the association immediately before the coming into force of this act."

It may sound like legal jargon, legal semantics, legal gobbledegook or whatever one wants to call it, but I must say with great respect to the Attorney General that inherent in what he is proposing to this assembly to revoke—those two amendments unanimously proposed by the committee—is a failure on his part to understand that the professional organizations in Ontario have to understand they must serve the public interest and not the private interests of their members.

I do not know what is motivating the Attorney General. I was quite surprised to hear that he was going to take refuge in the fact that he was not present and it had not been settled behind the doors of the policy development branch with the professional advisers of the ministry. If only he had been there we, the members of the committee, would have seen the error of our ways. Certainly his partners on the back benches of the Tory party, with the enlightenment he would have brought to bear, would never have proposed such an amendment.

I do not know how he operates when it comes to pressure from those who have influence in the society. I do not know how it operates. In my judgement, he is making a serious mistake. The argument that in other legislation other professional associations have never been subjected to such innocuous restrictive language as we have proposed to signal, confer and bring to the attention of the engineers that they are there for the public interest and not for the private interest of the members, is irrelevant to any discussion of the professional engineers association in the light of the briefs that were before us.

There is no single governing body that has as many diverse applications as the engineers in that broad cloak. Everyone knows that among the most effective bodies is the Federation of Engineering and Scientific Associations. It has about 4,000 members, who are also members of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, a private body that serves and advances the interests of those members. We have the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers, whose very significant membership in Ontario also belongs to the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. Those are only two of the diverse organizations that came before us to give us their point of view; a number of others do not have the structure and the capacity to do it.

I want to say to the Attorney General, to you, Mr. Chairman, and to members of the assembly that we must perforce divide on this section of the bill and on the proposed amendment by the Attorney General simply because it is with a great degree of disappointment on my part that the Attorney General, being a professional man himself, seems unable to detach himself from the point of view that any professional organization with a public duty should not be serving the private interests of its members and that he does not understand the corollary capacity of all members of every profession to say that what is in the private interests of the members of the profession perforce, by the natural logic of events, must be in the public interest. Of course that is wrong, totally wrong, and totally improper.

In an expanding society such as that of Ontario, where these professional organizations are supposed to be models of self-government by way of delegation, with an exclusive jurisdiction with respect to admission, discipline, membership and other matters, I had thought we had got to the point where we might be able, by using as a model the ancient professions—who have fallen far short in so many areas recently in their

concept of what their obligation is—to move judiciously and wisely to the grant of self-governing jurisdiction to other bodies, which are sometimes referred to as parabodies, that have mushroomed within the various professions.

Under this government, we are obviously a long way from that point of view. It is incomprehensible to me, after the hearings of that committee, with the experience we have had with the medical profession in many ways and with the legal profession in ways I have outlined, that when we give a grant of exclusive jurisdiction for self-governance to a professional body, that we should not clearly indicate we do not intend those bodies to serve the private interests of their members.

That is the principle. That is why we are going to divide on this bill. I am sorry this principle is immersed in what must appear to many members of the assembly to be a semantic game amongst legal draftsmen about clauses that may or may not have any influence as the world develops.

We will divide on the Attorney General's amendment to delete those subsections of section 2.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Chairman, as the only professional engineer who has had an opportunity to speak on this bill, perhaps I could influence some of the members opposite to reflect on their position before taking a final stance in the matter.

I guess it is of some significance to reflect on the number of engineers who actually enter into politics and go to the level of being in the provincial Legislature. In the last Legislature, I believe we had three engineers. Ted Bounsall from Windsor unfortunately did not make it in 1981; and the other engineer, of course, is the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller).

Perhaps it reflects in some ways the difference between the thought process which engineers go through and that which we as politicians sometimes go through, and maybe in some ways this is how the standing committee on administration of justice perhaps reached the conclusions it did when it brought forward these amendments to section 2.

If I could perhaps throw off my other hat, after abandoning the engineering profession to some degree and studying law—

Mr. McClellan: How old were you when you got out of school? You must have been in your late 30s when you got out of school.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Actually, I was still in my 20s when I got out of school.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: These child prodigies sort of wane.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: It has been downhill ever since I became an engineer; I often say that.

4:10 p.m.

I think the members opposite have missed the essence of what the engineers of Ontario are saying to this Legislature. I know of no profession with which I have been in contact since becoming involved in politics that has complained less to me about matters than the engineering profession.

Mr. Haggerty: They do not trust you.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: They might not trust that member.

I know of no profession in our society that has gained as much trust as the engineers have. I have been a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario for some 20 years—actually 18 years as a professional engineer, because I had to work as an engineer for two years before I qualified as a professional engineer. During that time, the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario has spoken for me, has represented me as an engineer, and has done it well.

Mr. Renwick: What about the public?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I believe they have represented the public very well. I would like the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) to cite to me the number of times that he, in his capacity as a member over the past years, has been approached by a dissatisfied member of the public because of some breach of the public faith engineers have had in the past.

Frankly, I think it is unfair to compare the professional engineers with that other profession to which I belong, the legal profession.

Mr. McClellan: Now we are getting somewhere. Tell it like it is.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I do not want to have it both ways at all.

Mr. Stokes: You could not have made a better comparison.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I know I could not have made a better comparison. I would venture to say the degree of confidence of the public in the engineers would far outweigh the confidence it has in the other profession I profess to practise from time to time. To indicate that in the past engineers have gained the mistrust of the public is absolutely ludicrous.

I say to the other members that the thought process an engineer would go through in looking

at this act would represent unfairness on the part of this Legislature. The professional engineers of Ontario have negotiated with this government in good faith for some eight years, through the Professional Organizations Committee, through various hearings, through negotiations with the Ministry of the Attorney General and through appearing at the committee.

I understand from some of the members of the committee that perhaps they did not carry their message through very well at the committee level. Perhaps that is typical of the profession, of my profession as an engineer.

Mr. Renwick: They did very well.

Mr. Haggerty: They did very well in committee.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: That is not the opinion of some of the people I have talked to. The results do not seem to indicate that, in my humble opinion.

I believe an engineer would look at this part of the act and consider it an insult to the profession, a profession that has put forward its best efforts in the past, has gained tremendous trust and has made a tremendous contribution to our province. I would think most engineers would look at this and ask, "What have we done as engineers to gain the mistrust of the Legislature, of the Ministry of the Attorney General and of the members of the Legislature to have this restriction placed on us when no other profession has it placed on it?" I am afraid the reasoning would be as simple, logical and straightforward as that.

Mr. Nixon: But your colleagues voted for it.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: It is unfortunate there were not more engineers on the committee.

However, it comes down to a straightforward argument. I believe that in the past the public interest has been served adequately and in a very professional manner by the professional engineers of Ontario. Quite frankly, as an engineer I want to deal with only one body. I think most engineers feel there are too many governing bodies and too many associations representing us all.

Mr. Nixon: And too many lawyers.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: They probably think there are too many lawyers too.

The fact of the matter is that the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario has a damned fine record, to use engineering language, and I fully support the association. I believe this Legislature would be making a serious error by leaving these two sections in this bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Chairman, reiterating very briefly some of the comments my distinguished colleague has just made, I think comments have been made in this Legislature that reflect an attitude which, quite frankly, is not fair to the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario.

The fact of the matter is that there is nothing to demonstrate that they have not been very much guided by the fundamental principle of representing the public interest, which was mentioned by the member for Riverdale. There is no question that in dealing with the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario over the past eight and a half years, starting with the Professional Organizations Committee, I and my colleagues in the ministry have found this group of distinguished professionals to be motivated at all times by a desire to serve the public interest. I think it is important to emphasize that.

The history as we know it would indicate that the association has withstood pressure from members within its group to expand the level of services provided to the members of the profession as opposed to carrying out its fundamental mandate of protecting the public interest.

As to how we viewed these amendments in the committee, I should say at the outset that I do appreciate the very dedicated work that was undertaken by the standing committee on administration of justice in relation to the Architects Act and the Professional Engineers Act. The decision to delete these amendments was not a decision that was arrived at lightly or without some very careful consideration because, as Attorney General for this province, I do respect very greatly the unanimous recommendations of any committee of this Legislature and the decision to disagree is not one that is arrived at lightly.

4:20 p.m.

I will not go into some of the unhappy history that apparently exists between the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers and the governing body, or at least some members thereof, notwithstanding the fact it was the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario that encouraged the creation of the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers.

There is no doubt that the APEO has understandably regarded these amendments as a vote of no confidence in the governing body by the members of the justice committee. I am not suggesting this was the intention of the justice committee when it passed these amendments, but

certainly this has been the widespread interpretation in the engineering profession.

Certainly it is not our intention, given the very good record of this governing body, to indicate any such lack of confidence. Indeed, I have to state there is some question in the minds of my legal advisers as to whether the legal effect of the amendments is in any way consequential; indeed, they do not in our view, add anything to subsection 2(7), which provides the association the capacity and powers of a natural person only for the purpose of carrying out its objects.

So it can be argued that the sections being deleted, quite apart from their negative symbolic significance, really have no real legal significance; but of course this is a matter about which lawyers can and will disagree, and it does provide some potential for unnecessary litigation.

I do not think there is any question that the governing bodies of all of these professions have benefited to a great extent from the debate that has gone on in the justice committee and in this Legislature underlining the importance of these self-governing bodies in representing the public interest, and I am sure the unhappy differences of opinion that appear to have grown up between the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers and the governing body are issues that can be resolved in the future.

It is my intention to convene a meeting of these two bodies to see if we cannot perhaps bring a better understanding, I say with respect, and a greater degree of harmony to the relationship between the two bodies. There is no question, and I am confident because there is no doubt in my mind, given the history of the governing body, that this body is interested in an association separate and apart from the governing body that can provide the services essential to the members of the engineering profession.

Certainly the point has been made loudly and clearly that the members of the standing committee obviously have been impressed with the need for the growth of a strong engineering professional organization, and I have no doubt the governing body does recognize the need for such a body and will continue to encourage it.

But certainly, having reflected on this matter long and hard and bearing in mind the distinguished history of service as represented by the governing body, I think it would be most inappropriate at this time to pass amendments that are undoubtedly regarded as a vote of no confidence, a vote of no confidence that simply is

not deserved when one looks at the history of this body.

Obviously, the members of this Legislature will have a continuing interest in the development of a more harmonious relationship between the governing body and any body that seeks to provide essential services to its members. We do have a responsibility as legislators who have exercised our mandate in creating these self-governing bodies. From that standpoint, as I have indicated, the debate has been a useful one and we have all learned from it.

In conclusion, I would not be introducing this amendment if I did not think it was clearly in the public interest.

5:11 p.m.

The committee divided on Hon. Mr. McMurtry's motion that section 2 of the bill be amended by striking out subsections 5 and 6 and by renumbering subsection 7 as subsection 5, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 54; nays 42.

Section 2, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 3 to 53, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment.

OMBUDSMAN AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend the Ombudsman Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

CORPORATIONS INFORMATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, second reading of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Corporations Information Act.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, the amendments to the Corporations Information Act which I am introducing today for second reading are necessary because another bill has been introduced before us this session. That other bill is Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations, which would remove the special licensing requirement for Canadian companies incorporated outside Ontario.

With the removal of licence requirements, all Canadian companies operating in Ontario would be treated equally. No longer would some companies need an extraprovincial licence. Bill 5 has been referred to the standing committee on administration of justice for further considera-

tion. Given that this bill is complementary to that legislation, we proceed today.

Under the proposed Bill 6, which would remove all licence requirements, all Canadian companies operating in Ontario would be treated equally. No longer would some companies need an extraprovincial licence.

The major amendment proposed for the Corporations Information Act will take that concept of equal treatment one step further. All out-of-province companies would be required to file the same information with my ministry's companies division. In the case of federally incorporated companies, this would mean the filing of more information than is now required.

In addition to this change, the Corporations Information Amendment Act contains minor housekeeping changes.

The definition of extraprovincial corporations in section 1 conforms with that contained in the proposed Extra-Provincial Corporations Act.

Section 2 corrects a contradiction between this act and the Limited Partnerships Act, which permits the use of the phrase "limited partnership" in the style name of a corporation. The change would allow that phrase to be used in the Corporations Information Act.

Two other sections add references to a company's registered office as well as its head office to keep the legislation consistent with other corporation statutes.

Those are the changes proposed at this stage of the Corporations Information Act.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our party, I would like to add a few comments on this bill.

We have no problem with the legislation as such. The only concern I have is that the parliamentary assistant stated the passage of the other bill now rationalizes the need for the provisions of this act. The honourable member knows we have not passed the other bill; we have merely sent it to committee and we will be deliberating that bill there.

It is rather presumptuous on the part of any one of us to predict the outcome of a bill that is going to a committee of this Legislature tomorrow or Thursday for amendments and which will then come back to this House. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) made a very valid point when he said—especially when we think of what happened to the bill we discussed in this Legislature a few minutes ago—that sometimes what happens at the committee level does not

change the way a bill is subsequently dealt with in the Legislature.

Another member just stated that even when some government members put their political reputation on the line voting for a particular bill, that bill may change when it comes back into this House. I do not think we should be so presumptuous as to state we already know the outcome of another bill which has not yet passed the committee stage in this Legislature and then use that to rationalize the need for this bill.

Having said that, we have no major problems with it. We understand some amendments will be moved later which will require corporations to make certain disclosures in Ontario. Our party has always been of the opinion that there should be legislation in this province requiring extraprovincial corporations to disclose when they own prime agricultural land in this province.

The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) has spoken extensively about this in the past. We know of cases where people have completely evaded the foreign ownership land transfer tax by incorporating in this province with perhaps only one sole director in the company residing in Ontario and the moneys and the principal owners coming from elsewhere. We are concerned that even this new legislation will not stop this kind of thing from going on.

Apart from the fact the government is not receiving its full share of the foreign ownership land transfer tax, I for one believe we will have achieved a state of being a banana republic the day we have people who live outside of this country owning and running our farm land. I think that is beginning to be quite a cause for concern.

Three or four years ago in my own part of the province people from elsewhere were purchasing farm land. Again, I want to stress that I and my colleagues have no objection to anybody coming in from another country, moving here and buying farm land. That is not what we object to. As long as people reside here in this country and province they will contribute to our society and they should not be precluded from owning farm land. I do not think any one of us would advocate that.

However, we have very grave reservations about people who live outside of this country purchasing farm land and hiring people to run it for them. I see the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) in his seat at this moment. Having been involved in real estate matters, he would be very familiar with this kind of thing going on in the province. I regret the bill does not address that feature.

However, the amendment we will hear later has another concern which, in my view, does not solve the problem either. I do not believe we should ever pass laws in this province which require full disclosure from a farmer whose farm has assets worth more than \$1 million. As members know, farmers are usually asset rich and money poor. It is quite common for a farm to be worth \$1 million.

The amendment we will see later this afternoon requires full disclosure of everything that goes on in a farm with assets in excess of \$1 million. I say we should hold on just a minute here because this starts to be really dangerous. The same principle would then also apply to small businesses that have assets or share capital in excess of \$1 million. When one is dealing with other than farm land that does not happen quite as much because other businesses are not generally as capital intensive as farms are, although there are certainly very many exceptions to that rule.

I will be speaking further to the amendment the New Democratic Party is bringing forward. I have serious reservations that it would be extremely unfair to certain small business operators, especially those small business operators who require a large capital outlay in order to operate, and farmers are specifically affected by what we will be hearing in that respect.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, it has fallen to me to speak to Bill 6, and I am pleased to do so. I do not want to take very long on second reading. I want to reserve most of my remarks for the debate when we get to committee of the whole House and I have the opportunity to move an amendment to section 4.

I should say, though, that I think this is an important debate. This is only the third time in about 12 or 13 years that the Legislature has had an opportunity to deal with the Corporations Information Act and specifically the corporate disclosure provisions of the Corporations Information Act.

There was a debate in 1972 in which all parties accepted some—not all, certainly—of the matters contained in the amendment I will be moving when we get to committee of the whole House. All three parties accepted amendments that would have required corporations to provide substantial information to the ministry, to be available in its offices on Yonge Street. All three parties accepted the principle in 1972. There was no vote necessary; it simply carried in the assembly, but it was never proclaimed into law by the government.

There was a second debate after I was elected, which was the last time the matter was before the House, in 1976. We had a very full debate during which a number of amendments were moved by the New Democratic Party. These would have required rather full and complete corporate disclosure by both extraprovincial corporations and corporations registered in Ontario.

We think this is a very important principle. Again, it makes more sense to discuss the specifics of our amendment and the rationale for the amendment when we get to committee of the whole House; otherwise, I am engaging in a second reading debate with respect to a matter that is not in the bill, and that would probably be ruled out of order. I do not want that to happen.

We are concerned, however, about section 4. There are some improvements with respect to information which extraprovincial corporations will be required to file with the ministry. First, I am confused about why extraprovincial corporations have had certain additional requirements placed upon them when corporations registered in Ontario are not bound by the same set of requirements. I do not understand why that distinction is maintained. That is one of the things we hope to address with our amendment.

5:30 p.m.

Second, the seven items of information set out in section 4 are, in our view, quite incomplete and still fail to give a very coherent sense of identity with respect to the corporation that files information in compliance with the terms of the bill once it has passed into law. I will wait until we get to committee of the whole House to try to flesh out that argument and concern and to be much more specific.

If the seven items set out in the bill under section 4 are passed into law, one will still have little idea—in fact, one will have no idea—who the beneficial owners of any corporation are. One will have no idea what the relationships are between one corporation and another. One will have no notion of interlocking directorates or any of the other myriad and complex relationships that characterize corporate economic life in this province.

It will remain true that all kinds of abuses and scams will remain possible because of the cloak of secrecy that surrounds the corporate entity in this province. Because we do not have disclosure laws and because we permit people to carry on with a veil of complete secrecy, all kinds of opportunities for the most spectacular scams still exist. I will speak more specifically about this

concern when we get to committee of the whole House.

I hope we can have a debate on this important issue and that the government will be open to incorporating some additional amendments with respect to a broader notion of corporate disclosure. I understand the ministry has agreed to accept one rather modest proposal that was put forward. At any rate, I hope that is the case and that the ministry is prepared to accept as an addition to section 4 an eighth item of information, the name and office address of the attorney for service in Ontario.

Mr. Williams: The agent.

Mr. McClellan: Fine. That is helpful. Every little inch helps, but it does not get at the heart of the matter. Having said that, and obviously becoming somewhat repetitive, I will wait until we get to committee of the whole House before I pursue the argument in detail. I look forward to the debate at that stage.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) indicated, we have no real problems with this legislation as it stands, although I am still very much concerned that it does not require the disclosure of the names of the nonresident foreign owners who are buying up all our good agricultural land in this province.

Foreign nonresident ownership of agricultural land in Ontario is certainly not a new phenomenon. We in the Ontario Liberal Party, and I personally, have been concerned about this increasing trend for a number of years. We have tried to impress on the government the need for action in this area.

A major problem in getting the government to act, however, has been that one cannot solve a problem if one will not first acknowledge the existence of the problem. This government will not acknowledge that much of our good agricultural land is passing into the hands of nonresident foreign owners.

I wonder whether the government would become somewhat concerned if it were suddenly to find that it was the Kremlin which was buying all our good land in this province. The fact of the matter is it does not know because the information does not have to be disclosed under existing legislation, or we have weak legislation requiring the disclosure of nonresident ownership of our good farm land.

As far back as 1973, a select committee of the Ontario Legislature on economic and cultural nationalism recommended to the government in its report on foreign ownership of Ontario real

estate that "future acquisition of land by individuals, including agricultural land and the opportunity to farm in Ontario, should be restricted to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants residing in Canada."

Needless to say, this recommendation was rejected outright by the government. A government member on that committee, who later became the Minister of Agriculture and Food, was the one dissenting vote on that recommendation.

On December 15, 1978, I asked the former Minister of Agriculture and Food whether he was aware of the widespread and serious concern about block purchases by foreign investors of agricultural land in Ontario. I also asked if it was true that foreign interests were circumventing the land transfer tax by forming Ontario corporations and whether he would undertake a survey of current foreign ownership of rural lands in Ontario and monitor all new land transfers. This request, however, was rejected. It was only pursuant to my private member's bill in 1979, which would have required the registration of all foreign-owned land in Ontario, that the province introduced its own act on December 1, 1980.

The government's interim report of October 1981 indicated that only 48,000 acres were foreign controlled. In November 1982 the Liberal Party released details of corporations and individuals who were able to circumvent the government's registration legislation as well as the Land Transfer Tax Act.

Those details involved 3,585 acres of farm land in Huron and Bruce counties alone. These parcels were discovered through investigations at local land registration offices. They represented only a fraction of the sales that had occurred throughout the province unknown to the government. In those sales alone a total of \$846,000 in land transfer tax had been circumvented.

We were provided with another interim report in December 1982 that, in our opinion, clearly demonstrated the need for the government to become serious about this problem and to come to terms with this very disturbing trend. While the government continued to downplay the significance of the problem, we were told that nonresident ownership in the province had increased by more than 100,000 acres since the previous year.

On May 24, 1983, the government brought in for second reading a bill to amend the Land Transfer Tax Act, which was to ensure that a nonresident may not avoid the 20 per cent rate of tax imposed on conveyances of land. Un-

fortunately, while this amendment plugged the loophole, there is still no means of ensuring that nonresidents forming Ontario companies to purchase lands will register under the Non-resident Agricultural Land Interests Registration Act. We believe this can be ensured only by an amendment to the Corporations Act to the effect that land companies with nonresident ownership must first register under the Non-resident Agricultural Land Interests Registration Act before they file under the Corporations Act.

Moreover, we have seen in cases we have documented that the individual who was acquiring the land for other unknown buyers will not have to pay the 20 per cent land transfer tax in the future since he has now become a landed immigrant. He has established a host of numbered companies into which he will amalgamate future land purchases. These companies in reality represent the shares that are owned by the true nonresident investors.

This legislation, however, was merely another example of a government that will act on a problem only after it becomes painfully obvious to all that a situation no longer can be tolerated and is so controversial that the government must be seen to be doing something.

In fact, it was as far back as 1974, when the land transfer tax was first announced, that the government said: "Where a nonresident acquires control of a corporation which owns land in Ontario, this will be deemed to be a transfer of land and the tax will apply." The government, however, never chose to introduce this section of the bill at that time for whatever reason.

5:40 p.m.

The government's latest registration report of March 31, 1983, indicates that 165,476 acres of agricultural land are foreign-owned. However, these figures must also be questioned since the extent of these purchases has never been seriously or completely investigated by the government. The true purchasers of this land are unknown and the details of the purchases continue to be denied to us.

For example, the government's latest figures indicate that Bruce county contains 9,146 acres of foreign-owned land. However, the latest figures compiled by the Bruce County Federation of Agriculture indicate the problem is much more widespread, with 14,550 acres foreign-owned.

The sad truth of the matter is that the government has never been serious about discovering the true extent of this problem. Only when the true figures on the extent and concentration of nonresident ownership are known

can public policy on the question be debated intelligently.

In conclusion, this legislation does not provide for disclosure of the names of those nonresident foreign owners who have had somebody in this province act on their behalf. There are foreign corporations, many of them numbered corporations, and they are not required to register under the land registration act. A company is not required to register the true owners under existing legislation. This is where I think this legislation could be amended.

In the case of numbered company which we investigated on the question of foreign ownership, all public documents led to the name of Tikal and Associates. This is a law company acting for the true foreign investors. However, existing legislation does not require this information to be disclosed. The government merely relies on the companies themselves to register under the Non-resident Agricultural Land Interests Registration Act if they are controlled by foreign interests.

I repeat that the true owners are not disclosed. As previously suggested, I believe this can only be accomplished by an amendment to the Corporations Act. Such an amendment would require land companies with nonresident owners to first register with the Non-resident Agricultural Land Interests Registration Act before they file under the Corporations Act.

I hope the minister might take this into consideration. I consider this a very serious problem—the gobbling up of our good agricultural land by nonresident foreign owners who are using it only for speculative purposes. They buy the land sight unseen; they do not come over to farm it. We have no objection to foreigners coming to this country, buying the land, farming it and competing with our own farmers. However, we do object to the money coming over from other countries and being invested in our good farm land. This does nothing more than make tenants out of our own Canadian people. This is exactly where we are heading if this is allowed to continue.

It reminds me of the old days in England when a few landlords owned all the land and the rest were peasants farming that land. What we are doing now is relegating future generations of young people in this country to the role of nothing more than tenant farmers. It is going to be very difficult to get this land back from the foreign owners.

I ask the minister to give this matter serious consideration. If he could think of an appropriate

amendment that would require disclosure of the names of the nonresident foreign owners, it would certainly be a step in the right direction. It would satisfy many of the rural people, particularly the farmers who are very disturbed about what is going on in rural Ontario as far as agricultural land is concerned.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the input on Bill 6 from members of the official opposition and of the third party this afternoon. I am also looking forward to discussing some of these concerns as we move into committee of the whole House after the dinner hour to talk about some of the specifics.

With regard to the initial observations made by the member for Prescott-Russell, I have to point out that I share the same concerns he put forward this afternoon as to why we are proceeding with Bill 6 while the fathering bill, if you will, Bill 5, is in one of the standing committees.

I have to make it clear and put it on the record that I did speak to the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), because I thought he was carrying the legislation this afternoon. I suggested to him that it might be more appropriate to stand down Bill 6 until Bill 5 was reported back to the House, so this could be dealt with at that time. I think it is clearly recognized that Bill 6 is a companion bill to Bill 5. I concur completely with what the member has stated.

However, while the member for Kitchener was agreeable to that type of arrangement, I asked the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick)—again I apologize, because I assumed the member for Kitchener was carrying the legislation this afternoon—whether he also felt it would be appropriate to stand down Bill 6 until Bill 5 had been dealt with in committee and reported back to the House. The member for Riverdale indicated his caucus—I assume he was speaking on behalf of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) as well—was anxious to proceed with this legislation.

It was not for me to oppose that wish or desire, although it does present that inconsistency. It appears to be putting the cart before the horse. It was not done at my behest but rather to accommodate the request of the members of the third party. I agree with what was said.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am sure the honourable member is aware that the order of business is designated by the government House leader. He brings his suggested order of business to the House leaders' meetings, which I have the privilege to attend, and the decisions are made there.

No druthers were expressed on the part of this party with respect to Bill 5 and Bill 6. We were presented with a request from the government to proceed with Bill 6, and that is exactly what we are doing. It is our practice not to deviate from the order of business as announced by the government House leader to suit the whims of ministers or parliamentary assistants.

We are very co-operative. I resent the suggestion that somehow we are gumming up the order of business. I am rather sensitive on this point. The order of business was selected by the member's House leader. If he has a problem with it, he can take it up with him.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have unintentionally touched a nerve. I am not here to debate that issue. I am simply pointing out the sequence of events that transpired behind the scenes. I spoke to the government House leader about deferring Bill 6, but it was not without speaking first, as a matter of courtesy, to the members of the two parties who are carrying the bill in opposition. When that was not agreed upon, it could not be taken up with the House leaders for the respective parties. I will not pursue the matter further. I just wanted to clarify the point for the member for Prescott-Russell.

I also want to touch on some of the matters mentioned by the member for Bellwoods. He commented on the intent and purpose of introducing amendments to the bill that will be dealt with in the committee of the whole House. In setting out a preamble to that, the member for Bellwoods implied that historically there has been great support for the type of legislation they will be introducing in committee of the whole House. I am not quarrelling or taking issue with the member for Bellwoods in some of the historical fact he stated here this afternoon, but perhaps he did not take the point far enough.

5:50 p.m.

I will be glad to discuss the historical events that have led up to where we are today because, while he did speak about where we were in 1971 and what happened in 1972, suggesting there was unanimous support of all parties in the House, and I do not quarrel with that, he has somehow overlooked what has transpired more recently.

I think there was a parting of the ways between the two opposition parties after 1972, as the members of the third party pursued this particular philosophical debate. I think that is where we will be this evening as we get into committee of the whole House and return to the discussions of 1972 and 1973 as well as those of 1982 and 1983.

Mr. McClellan: Where is John Clement when we need him?

Mr. Williams: Where is John Clement when we need him? I have some questions to ask him as well.

In any event, I think we have to fully develop and talk about the history of the earlier legislation to understand the situation. I hope to be able to elaborate further upon the historical comments made by the member for Bellwoods.

In the few moments left to me, and summing up on my general observation so we can conclude before the dinner hour and perhaps agree to proceed in committee of the whole House this evening, let me say that I appreciate the concerns expressed by the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for Huron-Middlesex. I know the farm land issue has been of great concern to them, but I must stress that it has been a concern not only of the official opposition or the third party but of the members on this side of the House as well.

In fact, while the member for Huron-Middlesex was suggesting in his comments that this government has done nothing with regard to dealing with that issue, he was reciting chapter and verse all the legislative initiatives we have taken in this Legislature to deal with foreign ownership of land. He could not have recited them in a more accurate way than he has this afternoon.

Mr. Riddell: It is show-window legislation. It is not stopping foreign owners from not disclosing, and it is not stopping them from circumventing the land transfer tax. We know it and the member knows it.

Mr. Williams: I appreciate the member for Huron-Middlesex suggesting the legislative initiatives taken have not been adequate. But I guess that is where we probably part company.

In the initiatives taken to date through the consultative process with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) and the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory), dealing both from a revenue point of view and from the whole principle involved here, we have taken realistic legislative measures to tighten up the situation as it relates particularly to farm land. While the official opposition members suggest otherwise, I think some of the information they have cited here this afternoon suggests otherwise.

In acting upon the member's suggestions, I will reflect over the dinner hour upon some of the points he made. However, I am not persuaded that this particular legislation really is designed

to deal with the particular issue the two members put forward this afternoon.

I have to point out again, to put the whole debate into perspective, that this particular bill, although it is now in a position of preceeding Bill 5, is complementary to Bill 5. I must remind members of the Legislature that Bill 5 deals with extraprovincial corporations. It was within that narrow context that Bill 6 was designed to accommodate the fulfilment of the measures outlined in Bill 5 and nothing more.

While the members of the third party in particular want to expand the debate to deal with corporation law in general, we have to remember and understand that Bill 6 is designed to deal specifically with the matters in Bill 5, which will be under discussion this Thursday in the justice committee, and that is specifically with extraprovincial corporations.

That brings me back to the points raised by the member for Huron-Middlesex, who also suggests the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act is designed specifically and primarily to deal with land holdings and identification of the beneficial owners of land. That legislation is designed to deal with three other issues that are independent and separate from the matter of ownership of land per se.

One is to record corporate information of companies incorporated outside Canada that want to come to Ontario to do business. We require certain basic corporate information; obviously, the legislation is not going to provide the depth of information the members of the third party feel is relevant and germane with regard to extraprovincial corporations.

The second aspect of Bill 5, which I know is a matter of great concern to the member for Riverdale, is to facilitate legal proceedings in dealing with the service of documents. He spoke about that at some length the other evening. We will be dealing with that issue again in committee and when it comes back into this House.

The third and least important reason, but it is of some importance to us as a government, is that it provides a modest generation of revenue.

Those are the three major ingredients of the Extra-Provincial Corporations Act and why we are bringing it up to date to make it more relevant to the times. It is not a bill designed to deal with the issues of concern to the members of the official opposition or to the issue of the ownership of land, the concern of the third party. That debate is related to other legislation that was dealt with in the past in this Legislature and

undoubtedly will be dealt with again. These two bills are not directed towards those concerns.

I felt it important to put into perspective what Bill 6 is all about and how it is directly related to Bill 5. Bill 5 in itself is in a much narrower framework than what the members, in particular those from the third party, are addressing this afternoon and evening. For that reason we probably will not be supporting the major amendment my colleague the member for Bell-

woods has been kind enough to furnish for my consideration. We are getting into broad issues that are outside the intent of this legislation.

Noting the hour, I will conclude my general remarks at this time so we can proceed into committee of the whole House this evening.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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No. 27

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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

MAY 2 1984

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, April 24, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 24, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

LIQUOR LICENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, second reading of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Liquor Licence Amendment Act 1984. The most important change contained in this legislation will be a two-year prohibition on a second application for a liquor licence following a Liquor Licence Board of Ontario rejection of an initial application as a result of a public hearing.

The change is designed to prevent a repetitive series of reapplications, but the board will retain discretionary power to process a second application within the two-year period if it is satisfied there has been a substantial change in the circumstances surrounding the application.

In addition, this bill will provide for the formal amalgamation of the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal with the ministry's Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal.

Further amendments will provide the LLBO with authority to prescribe by regulation other types of personal identification which may be given status equal to that of the Ontario photo card, the photographic identification issued by the board itself and currently the only proof of age that licensed establishments can rely upon without risk.

Finally, this bill will also amend the act to broaden the definition of Ontario wine to include wine made from a combination of Ontario and imported apple juice. This results from a request from two of this province's wineries that want to blend imported apple juice from the United Kingdom with our domestic apple juice to produce a new line of apple cider.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on behalf of our party, but I will gladly give the floor to the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) who seems to have a lot to say on this bill at the moment. Perhaps he wants to sell wine in small, independent grocery stores in his constituency. I am not quite sure. Whatever it is he is trying to mumble, he seems to have something on his mind.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member should be speaking to Bill 11 and not worrying about the member for High Park-Swansea.

Mr. Boudria: So should the member who is heckling me.

I will gladly speak to Bill 11.

The Acting Speaker: An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act.

Mr. Boudria: An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act. I am quite well aware of that, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for bringing it to my attention.

First of all, our party is generally in favour of Bill 11 but we do have a few questions that perhaps we could enumerate at this point, and I hope in his wrapup remarks the parliamentary assistant can enlighten us as to some of the reasons for these amendments. Some members say they doubt that, but I will give the benefit of the doubt to the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) that he can in fact enlighten this Legislature with some further explanations to this bill.

As the parliamentary assistant indicated, there are a number of changes. The first one I have concern with is the two-year prohibition on the second application for a liquor licence. I recognize the existing problem is that applicants would just reapply until objectors finally got fed up with objecting, and I know this is what the government is trying to cure.

I am in favour of having some sort of prohibition for a period of time; I am only questioning why two years was chosen. Two years is a very long time. I am thinking of the western end of my constituency. Where once there had been wide open fields, over the last two years 1,200 or 1,300 new homes and all kinds of new buildings have been built. It seems to me a two-year process like that may or may not always be necessary, and I would like further explanations from the member as to why he feels this particular length of time is warranted.

I recognize the government is saying it can consider an application before the two-year period is up, but from what I gather the applicant would in the first instance have to prove circumstances had changed to make a second

application acceptable; then he would have to go ahead and apply a second time in order to attempt to get the licence. From what I gather, the government is creating a two-level method of application for those people who have applied less than two years ago.

Again, we do agree there should be a period of prohibition after a refusal, but I just wonder why it has to be this long. It is a personal concern I have. One cannot help wondering if this is not a case of denying justice by way of delaying it, because it is a long period of time or it may be a long period of time, and circumstances sometimes do change a lot more quickly.

Perhaps the member can indicate the history behind it and the number of cases we have had in the past where circumstances have not changed over two years. He may have proof this is the proper period, and I would gladly accept it, of course, if that were the case. It is a concern we have.

I personally welcome the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal now dealing with liquor licence appeal matters. I gather they were almost doing that in some cases already because of the composition of the various boards. I do wonder why it took us so long to do this. I seem to recall in the estimates of the minister almost two years ago we did say we were going to do this, and we now see it coming to light.

8:10 p.m.

I find it interesting that we are now going to give the same privileges to Ontario cider as we have to wine in the past. I must say, frankly, I thought this was the case already in this province. I recognize there is a linguistic component there to the word "cider." Generally in the French language we interpret "cider" as being fermented cider, a type of wine, and I had assumed this was already the case in the present law and it was generally interpreted as being the case in the English language.

I am told by some of my colleagues this is not necessarily so. In the English language, the word "cider" is used to describe a type of apple juice, as well as being used to describe fermented cider or apple wine, which has been used in the past. I am glad to see we have included that in the bill.

I have a question about section 6 of the bill, the amendment to subsection 18(3) of the act. I notice in the last sentence it says "an appeal under this section may be made on questions of law only." I wonder why that change took place. Perhaps the government could enlighten us on why it feels that change is necessary.

From what I gather, in the past we could refuse an applicant a liquor licence in this province because the individual was known to have a bad reputation or such kind of thing. Is what the government is doing, by removing this and allowing only questions of law, to comply with the provisions of the Charter of Rights? Is that one of the reasons it is amending this section? I am a little curious about the purpose of that amendment and would like to know the reasons for it.

My colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) also has a point on which he wants some clarification. I do not see him in his seat right now, but as I understand it he will be back in the Legislature shortly. If I indicate it to the parliamentary assistant, perhaps he will be able to clarify it for us. It has to do with the present act as it pertains to liquor permits on Indian reserves.

I understand most Indian reserves are dry, but that is not the case for all of them. I know there is a case of an Indian reserve in the constituency of Kent-Elgin that has, on occasion, applied for special occasion permits, as well as other kinds of permits. The present act does not refer to Indian reserves. It refers only to municipalities. The municipality is not the sole local jurisdiction nowadays.

Mr. Stokes: You can get a special occasion permit on an Indian reserve.

Mr. Boudria: The member for Lake Nipigon has indicated you can get a special permit on an Indian reserve. That is correct. As I understand it, though, what we are lacking in the case of the Indian reserves is the means to obtain an appeals procedure. There does not seem to be an appeals procedure when there is no municipality involved. I gather that is the problem the member for Kent-Elgin wants to indicate.

In any case, he has now regained his seat and he can add to the questions regarding liquor licensing on Indian reserves.

Those few remarks are about all I have to say on this bill. It is not a terribly controversial piece of legislation. I have a feeling a lot of the legislation we are doing these days is not particularly controversial in nature at all, and we seem to be doing quite a few small bills rather than attempting comprehensive legislation.

One wonders why we are doing only this kind of legislation at the present time. Does it mean there is actually something in the air that some of us are wondering about, some occasion in June when we will be called upon to vote on other things than Bill 11, all at one time?

The Acting Speaker: We are talking about Bill 11 and not about other subjects.

Mr. Boudria: We are talking about Bill 11. I was just indicating the relative importance of Bill 11 in the context of all the legislation we pass in this province. I cannot help but notice this is not one of the more complex pieces of legislation we will have to deal with this year.

Those are the comments I would like to make on behalf of our party. I would appreciate some remarks from the parliamentary assistant on those few concerns we have.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I do not think either I or this bill deserves this particular applause, but I am grateful for it.

I find bills such as this intriguing because the explanations we receive in connection with them are only partial. It is extremely difficult to deal with piecemeal legislation such as this on second reading. Having said that, I will attempt to cover my concerns in the bill.

I read the definition with respect to Ontario wine and the new inclusion in the Liquor Licence Act of the portion dealing with the combination of apples grown in Ontario, etc., and the concentrated juice of apples grown outside of Ontario in such proportion as is prescribed by regulation. The explanation is that two wineries requested the concentrated juice of apples grown in the United Kingdom be allowed to enter for this purpose, yet the limitation in the definition is not restricted to the United Kingdom.

I would like to know the dynamics behind the continuing request by wineries to have content from abroad included in the products to be manufactured in Ontario. Is it only the United Kingdom? If so, what part of the United Kingdom? What particular virtue do United Kingdom apples have? What is there to prevent someone suggesting there should be apples from France, Germany, the United States, or from some other part of the universe?

An hon. member: Even British Columbia.

Mr. Renwick: Or apples from BC, as my colleague said.

My point is simple. The explanations are partial and disdainful of the assembly. They do not give us the kind of information we need to deal with the bill. It would be easy to say there is no point in debating the bill at all; just let it pass, because it is not of any importance.

My same concern applies with respect to replacing the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal with the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal, particularly when I find we are not really substituting the Commercial Registration

Appeal Tribunal as it is set out in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act. We are truncating its jurisdiction by precluding the application provided in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act for appeal to the courts.

In this bill, the government is disbanding the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal, transferring it to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal, and then in the next breath saying the decision of that tribunal, so far as liquor licence applications are concerned, is final, whereas under Bill 274, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act, a very clear due process operation is permitted.

Later on in the bill when the government substitutes the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal with the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal, it again restricts the right of appeal of a person to matters of law, whereas under the act governing the whole of the ministry there is an appeal on questions of fact in law.

8:20 p.m.

Yet when the bill is explained to us in the assembly, no explanation is given as to why, if the government is going to make the transfer, it does not just make the transfer and allow the due process to operate, which is set out in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations' bill.

Similarly, there is an inadequate explanation in the parliamentary assistant's opening remarks. As far as I can tell, there is no reference to the increased jurisdiction to clause 7(za), "regulating and controlling the possession of liquor sold under any class of licence or permit." I do not know the reason for introducing that subsection in the bill.

It is extremely difficult to read the explanatory note, which says: "Section 7: The new clause is an addition to the section authorizing the making of regulations." One does not have to be a genius to understand this is what it is about. But why does the minister want that particular additional regulatory-making power?

Then he comes to the question of adding other and additional documentation for the purposes of establishing the age of a person. I do not know what the intention is of that. I do not know whether that is the forerunner to the requirement that drivers' licences in Ontario are now going to have the photograph of the individual person on them and that is going to be the substituted documentation.

What substituted documentation will be sufficient if the owner of an establishment serves

liquor, beer or wine to a person under the age of 19 years? What other documentation does the minister have in mind that will exonerate the owner of the establishment from exercising the kind of vigilance we went to a great deal of trouble to provide in the assembly, by providing an identification card readily available to young people for the purpose of establishing their age? Again, all the parliamentary assistant offered was a very generalized statement.

I do not know, and I do not understand either, the technical amendment he is introducing to provide that "Ontario regulation 805/81 shall be deemed to have come into force on October 13, 1981." Is that a mistake? Was the regulation not filed in time? I noted the regulation was filed on November 27, 1981. Here we are in 1984 being asked to make that regulation deemed to have come into force on October 13, 1981, instead of November 27, 1981. Why is the minister coming in with a statutory change for that purpose at this late date?

Surely the parliamentary assistant knows there may be government secrets he cannot disclose, but certainly with some of the clauses which are technical the minister does not have to play it so close to the vest that he cannot share the actual reasons with the assembly. If they are shared, we do not have to debate these kinds of bills because one can read the explanatory note and one can understand it. The minister leaves us with no alternative. Either we ask all of these questions, because the explanatory notes and the parliamentary assistant's statements are totally inadequate, or we let the bill go and find a joker somewhere in the pack.

Let us be forthcoming and get on with the business of the House by dealing openly and clearly with the reasons for these various amendments. Then perhaps we will not have to put the bill into committee of the whole House.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am very appreciative of the remarks of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). Because of his learned knowledge of the law, he cleared up a number of points. He has confirmed what I had surmised was the case.

As I look at section 6 of the act, the net effect is to transfer the jurisdiction for appeals from the Liquor Licence Act to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The point is that the appeal is now made on the question of law only and not on the question of fact. I submit that appeal should be considered on fact, and I want to outline a particular case in my riding.

John Peters, the former chief of the Moravian band, in a letter to Helen Forbes of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, said a referendum was held on the reserve regarding the question of the sale of liquor. However, he said the referendum referred only to the sale of liquor by a nonprofit organization to be monitored by the Moravian band council. In fact, the licence was issued to a private individual. This fact is confirmed by a copy of motion 6 of January 19, 1983, of the Moravian band council.

I would have thought this fact would have been considered by the liquor licence board, and it is a fact that could be used as a basis for appeal.

Another fact that should be considered in an appeal is that the Ontario Provincial Police are slow to respond to calls for assistance on the reserve. Relations between the OPP and the reserve are not the best. One can appreciate the reluctance of the OPP to respond to what they probably regard as nuisance calls. Part of their inability to respond is due to the undermanned state of their complement. OPP officers themselves have told me they respond to calls on a priority basis and they cannot guarantee to respond to a disturbance call when their officers are tied up with traffic accidents or criminal investigations. The reserve has asked repeatedly for an OPP station on the reserve.

Another question that should be applicable is the allegation in the letter of February 15 from former Chief Peters to the chairman of the liquor licence board. The letter says the applicant openly and willingly confessed to bootlegging. Rev. John A. Lombard, rector of St. Peter's Moravian Anglican Church of Canada, says in a letter that the applicant supplied liquor to a 20-year-old boy who got drunk on the liquor and subsequently, as a result of a car accident, has only 20 per cent vision remaining in one eye.

It seems to me that on the basis of the above facts the licence should be subject to appeal.

I want to return to clause 6(1)(g) of the act, which says, "in the case of an application for a licence, the issuance of the licence is not in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the public in the municipality in which the premises is located." I draw attention to the word "municipality," which has already been mentioned by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). If one looks in subclause 1(i) of the Liquor Licence Act, "municipality" means "a city, town, village or township." We have another jurisdiction in Ontario that is not covered by "city, town, village or township," and that is an Indian reserve.

Nine elders—and I remind all members that in the Indian community elders are held in great respect—including the former chief, were opposed to the granting of a licence. I am confident these people would appeal the decision. I know the former chief would appeal. However, they are prevented from appealing on either fact or law, as there is no provision for an appeal from a reserve.

8:30 p.m.

I suppose the framers of the Liquor Licence Act did not consider this because at the time the Indian Act did not allow liquor on reserves. However, since 1970, there has been a provision whereby, on a petition from the reserve, liquor can be allowed on a reserve.

One would think that if reserves are not allowed to appeal and if their residents are not to be treated differently from residents of a city, town or village, some provision should be made for reserves. I do not know the ramifications of that or how it might affect the Indian Act. However, I would suggest the government look at this and perhaps stand down this legislation until such time as it can bring in an amendment to cover reserves.

I want to make it clear that I am not objecting to a licensed establishment on the Moravian reserve or any other reserve, provided the licence is granted under the same terms as exist for granting an appeal for nonreserve licences. If we are to have harmonious relations between native and non-native people, we must give them more control and, hopefully, full control over their affairs. This would include the question of whether or not they have liquor licences on the reserves.

By way of background information, I should point out that where a licence is granted on a reserve, the band council must first petition the federal government to lift section 94 of the Indian Act. This application was made on March 22, 1983, and approval was published in the Canada Gazette on August 27, 1983.

To conclude on that part of it, I think there is a glaring omission in the act in that we do not have a section dealing with an appeal from a resident of a reserve. If one looks at the present act, it is probably legal from the standpoint that they are not mentioned with respect to the original granting of a licence. Probably the granting of a licence is legal enough, but when it excludes them from an appeal and appeals are granted to non-Indians, it would seem to me we are treating them in a second-class way, which is not consistent with our ideas of common justice.

I think this act should be amended to take that into consideration. My objection is not to a licence on a reserve; it is to the process which, as I outlined, is very unfair.

Being an apple producer myself, I would like to comment on sub-subclause 1(j)(iii)(B), the concentrated juice of apples grown outside of Ontario. We do support the importation of grape juice because we do not grow enough of the particular varieties of grapes that are now in favour in Ontario. Just last week we amended an act to allow two more years of importing grape juice and concentrates from other countries, particularly from Europe.

I cannot see any necessity for bringing in apple juice. We have a surplus of apple juice in Ontario and have had for many years. Concentrated juice of any description, of apples or grapes or whatever, is not the best quality product because the juice is heated in a manner that destroys some of the flavour of the product. It is heated to drive off the water, but in doing so it also drives off a good many of the aromatic esters and ethyl oleate chemicals that add the particular bouquet, flavour and aroma to the juice.

When one buys a tin of apple juice that says "apple drink" rather than "apple juice," one is buying a product made from a concentrate. It is very much lacking in flavour and quite a different product from whole apple juice.

The Acting Speaker : Does what the member is saying apply to Bill 11?

Mr. McGuigan: If you look on the first page of the bill towards the bottom, sub-subclause 1(j)(iii)(B), it says, "the concentrated juice of apples grown outside of Ontario." I am just pointing out that one is not getting the very best product and I do not see any particular need for this.

I am personally very much against this bill and I would like to see it changed to take care of some of the concerns I have expressed.

Mr. Haggerty: I knew you would not forget me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Shymko: Now we will hear some eloquence.

Mr. Haggerty: The member is going to hear some different approaches taken to this act, An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act. He can rest assured of that.

I was looking at sections of the act that could restrict competition, and I will direct a question to the parliamentary assistant on this matter. Does this bill conform to the new Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs bill to amend

the Combines Investigation Act that was tabled in the House of Commons?

A news release from Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada says: "The result of extensive consultation with provincial governments, consumer groups, businesses and other interested parties over the past three years, the bill contains a package of amendments designed to fairly balance the interest of large and small businesses and consumers, and contribute to economic growth.

"Competition policy sets out the basic ground rules for all economic activities. The goal is to fashion a law which responds to Canada's present industrial realities and economic opportunities."

It adds: "Among the bill's major proposals are amendments to clarify and strengthen the law dealing with mergers, criminal conspiracies to restrain competition and the anti-competitive practice of firms that dominate markets. The bill also extends the coverage of the act to crown corporations and banks."

I would point out that there is an arm of this government that does dominate the market. One could say the LCBO under the Liquor Licence Act is a crown corporation and it dominates its market through, for example, price fixing.

The news release goes on to say: "The civil courts will also now be used to safeguard Canadian consumers and businesses from abuses by firms that are in dominant positions in their markets. The bill lists a variety of abusive, anti-competitive practices which can be used by firms which dominate their markets to prevent small firms from growing or new firms from starting business. This will ensure that small firms or new businesses are not prevented from growing as a result of dominant firms engaging in anti-competitive practices."

Section 1 of our Liquor Licence Act refers to Ontario wines. Other products are allowed to come in under this act.

The news release from Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada says: "Conspiracies to restrain competition contradict the basic tenets of fair play in the free market system." I sometimes question whether it is a free market system when the Liquor Licence Act controls the issuing of certain licences. Walking down Bay Street or Yonge Street, particularly out in front of the Westbury Hotel, I notice they have railings placed outside at noon hour and alcoholic refreshments are served right on the street.

The Speaker is shaking his head—he does not agree with me—but that does take place on Bay

Street. Yet different groups applying for special permit licences are confronted with strict conditions saying such facilities may interfere with the public. Extending the permit to allow service on the street is not necessary, I suggest, when the establishment has other facilities off the street. I think this is an area where the government could consider changes.

Getting back to the release concerning the Combines Investigation Act, it quotes Mrs. Erola as saying: "These measures will allow Canadian firms to better meet the foreign competition at home and to penetrate markets abroad. The proposed amendments also make agreements among Canada's chartered banks subject to the Combines Investigation Act."

However, it does not seem to apply to the Liquor Licence Act here.

8:40 p.m.

We talk about foreign competition and penetrating markets abroad. In the area I represent in the Niagara region, the riding of Erie, close to the US border, we see the loss of the tourist industry, particularly the dollars tourists can bring into Ontario. Even with the 30 or 35 per cent exchange on the US dollar, tourists are not coming into that area to spend money. One of the reasons is shown by an advertisement from the Buffalo Evening News dated April 16. Here is an example: "Labatt's beer and ale, case of 24, \$7.98."

An hon. member: Made in Canada.

Mr. Haggerty: Made in Canada. The same thing applies to Canadian liquor sold across the border from Fort Erie. One can buy it for almost one third of its cost in Ontario. If we are to have fair competition—we talk about export trade with our neighbouring country to the south—and if we want people to spend money in the tourist industry here, we are going to have to bring our alcoholic beverage prices in line with those of our US counterparts.

If we were more competitive in this area of commodities, we might have all kinds of Americans coming to see the Toronto Blue Jays play the New York Yankees or Cleveland Indians. This is the area the government should be looking at.

Another area I want to discuss—I have raised this at every opportunity I have had to speak on amendments to the Liquor Licence Act or about the Liquor Control Board of Ontario—is the serious problem many municipalities now face with municipal waste disposal.

I draw a parallel to the beer industry, where we have recycling and returnable bottles; each bottle

is recycled about 21 times. Yet we find the Liquor Licence Act and the Liquor Control Board are the biggest contributors to pollution—I suppose one could take that both ways: human pollution and municipal waste pollution—in the province in the sense that it is costing municipalities. It is getting to the stage where the local taxpayers cannot afford to bury these glass bottles any more. This government will have to take some leadership in this area.

I have a resolution from Fort Erie town council, for example. They are concerned about this problem. The resolution is about the multi-material recycling program. They talk about the glass and say a letter “advises that the Ministry of the Environment has a proposal before the provincial cabinet at this time supporting the recycling program and support appears to be justifiable providing the benefits are reasonably in line with the letter.” This is dated the fourth month of 1984. It says there would be “savings to taxpayers through reduced landfill costs; private investment into community recycling systems [and] local employment.”

I ask the minister and the parliamentary assistant responsible for this bill, why do they not get off their good intentions and do something in this area to give the municipalities some relief?

If it were garbage pickup day in Toronto, I would suggest we walk along Wellesley Street tonight to see what I am talking about. Almost every garbage can is filled with this type of litter. The government should put some pressure on the Liquor Control Board to change the Liquor Licence Act and bring in some recommendations on returnable bottles.

Mr. Nixon: Isabella Street is good too.

Mr. Haggerty: Isabella is good too? Is that a new brand?

The Deputy Speaker: With all respect to the member, I am wondering—

Mr. Haggerty: If one walks down the streets anywhere in Toronto, one can see what I am talking about. Let us move in this direction and do something in that area. Do something good for a change over there and at least get the recycling back to where it should be with responsible bottling.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I wonder what this has to do with the bill.

Mr. Haggerty: I am right on the bill. That was omitted, and I thought I might induce the minister to bring it in.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the comments from the members

opposite on various aspects of the bill and the concerns that have been expressed.

I certainly want to hasten to allay the fears of the member for Riverdale, who suggested that the legislation has been brought forward in a form of secrecy and that we have denied the opposition members an opportunity to have a real understanding and appreciation of what the amending legislation is all about. I will certainly put his mind to rest as quickly as I can on that score, because I am anxious to put on the table, so to speak, all the information relevant to the sections that are of concern to the member for Riverdale to make quite clear the intent and purpose of those amendments.

I would like, however, turn to the first speaker, the member for Prescott-Russell, and deal with section 2 of the bill and the concerns the honourable member expressed about the time factor before a further appeal could be made after an initial denial of an application for a licence. He was questioning whether the two-year period was too long and whether the amendment was merely a delaying or stalling tactic.

I can assure the member this is not the case. The two-year period has been brought in with a real purpose, given the fact that we are not talking about a new hearing. It is not as though we were denying an applicant the opportunity to apply forthwith to get a licence in the first instance.

It may have been a number years ago, before the member and I were of the age of majority, that the operators of restaurants had to wait six months, I think it was, or maybe a year before they could even apply for a liquor licence. They had to prove that the food they were serving in their establishment was of good quality and was causing no consternation out in the community as to a poor bill of fare. Once they had established their credentials in the community as far as serving good food to the public at large was concerned, then after a given period of time they could apply for a liquor licence.

Of course, that has since changed, and that delay period no longer exists. It did indeed work very difficult economic hardships on the restaurateurs in that particular era.

What we are talking about here, of course, is the appeal situation. If the member has not experienced it in his riding, I have certainly had first-hand experience of this situation. As the minister said back on March 26, when he introduced this bill for first reading, the reason for this particular amendment is that some applicants have filed new applications with the

board shortly after each rejection, apparently in the hope that local opposition to the granting of the licence would simply be worn down. That is simply a reiteration of what the member for Prescott-Russell was saying and acknowledging.

Certainly I have had that experience in my own riding. While the names may not be of any significance to the member opposite, as an example, one of the major ratepayers' associations within the heart of Oriole riding, the O'Connor Hills Ratepayers' Association, went through this horrifying experience back in 1979. They opposed an application by a restaurateur on what they felt were very valid grounds. They appeared before the board and convinced the board that the licence should not be issued at that time, and it was refused.

8:50 p.m.

Within a matter of months, the applicant appealed to the tribunal. In the same year it went to the tribunal, and the tribunal agreed with the original position of the board in refusing the licence. That did not deter the restaurateur. He decided, "We will go back at it a third time." Indeed, the restaurateur did apply again. In so doing, he was refused a second time at the board level, the first level of appeal.

He had been turned down three times, but he decided, "No, we will continue to fight on and wear down the local citizenry." He went to the tribunal for a second time and, lo and behold, he got his wish. For reasons best known to themselves, and I am not going to quarrel with the reasons given although I may differ with them, the tribunal did approve the application.

This all took place within a two-year period. Quite frankly, at the time of the fourth hearing one person turned up from the ratepayers' association, compared to the first instance when a significant number came out. Each time, there were fewer and fewer people.

The very thing the minister referred to in his opening statement, that the member for Prescott-Russell has acknowledged and apparently has experienced in his own riding, happened here. The citizenry was just worn down and the ratepayers' association, which was vigilant on behalf of all the people living within that community, just felt it could not go on fighting although it gave its best shot, so to speak. Lo and behold, within that 24-month period, just through the process of continual application and appeal, the restaurateur did succeed.

With this experience in mind and this particular case, along with several others that had been brought to the attention of the minister, it was

determined that it would be appropriate to have a cooling-off period so to speak. This would provide a reasonable period during which the residents in the community and their ratepayers' representatives, if they happened to have an organized ratepayers' association, would have a respite from being continually badgered by the restaurateur who was insistent on getting a licence and would keep the pressure on and keep the ratepayers' association, if applicable, and the citizens in the community continually coming back to the board to present their case.

The amendment has been put forward with this in mind, and I think on good grounds. As the member for Prescott-Russell and others have stated, the intent was good, but they wanted to be satisfied that intent as members understood it was bona fide. Indeed, I can reinforce and reaffirm what members are saying.

Mr. Boudria: Why two years as opposed to one year?

Mr. Williams: Let me go back to my example. The first application before the board was held in May. By the time they got to the tribunal, it was November, but it was in the same year; so the better part of a year had already been spent and they were only at stage 2 of the proceedings.

It seems to me that a longer time period has to be set aside that would prevent this continuing onslaught from prevailing. There is an escape provision in the section, as the member for Prescott-Russell himself pointed out.

If the circumstances have substantially changed—and do not ask me to give a legal interpretation of substantial; from a practical point of view we can understand what substantial change would be—the board has discretion to permit a rehearing or a new application to be made within the two-year period, but only in unusual circumstances. That escape mechanism is there if there are really bona fides under which the restaurateur is going to be greatly prejudiced by having to wait the two-year period. But by the same token I think this provides a strong measure of protection to the local community and to constituents who are subjected to these types of public hearings.

With that escape valve there, and considering the member's concern about whether it is one or two years, while two years is an arbitrary selection of time, I think it is a realistic one we can all live with that will be in the best interests of the public at large.

Perhaps I can turn to concerns raised by the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for

Riverdale. I think the member for Kent-Elgin and the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) also raised some concerns with regard to section 1, where the definition of Ontario wine is expanded to include apple cider.

There were varying points of view from the other side of the House, from extreme pleasure to consternation, frustration and, if not outright opposition, a great deal of anxiety expressed over the fact that we would be amending the legislation to permit imported concentrates to come into this country. It would appear from what some members have suggested that it would impact adversely on the domestic wine market.

What has been overlooked, for those members who suggested it works against the interests of domestic apple growers and it appears as though we are bringing coals to Newcastle by bringing imported concentrates into a jurisdiction where we have great quantities of apple juices available locally, is that there appears to be an inconsistency.

The situation is identical to what we were talking about the other day under the Wine Content Act where we realize that a certain amount of imported grapes have to be brought into Ontario to ensure the quality, flavour and bouquet of wines are acceptable to the consuming public in Ontario. That blending process is an essential ingredient to ensure there is the quality and texture of the wines that make them internationally recognized and have earned them awards on an international basis. It is so with regard to the apple ciders.

It has been indicated the concentrates that would be used would have to be of the nature that are available only from England. The type of cider they want to produce is the English type of cider. The two brand names that are being proposed are ones which I am sure the member for Riverdale is much familiar with from his sojourns in England from time to time. I am sure he has enjoyed in a local pub some Strongbow or Woodpecker cider.

Those are the two brand names it was hoped would be produced here through arrangements with the local wineries, Jordan and Ste-Michelle Cellars and Andrés Wines. They are the two wineries the member for Riverdale referred to that have applied to import the concentrates so they can produce the singularly distinct English ciders.

With regard to the concerns of the member for Kent-Elgin, who is fearful that we would be infringing on the apple producers' market here, I can assure him the importation of the cider

concentrates has been given approval after consultation by our Ministry of Agriculture and Food with the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission and the Wine Council of Ontario as well as the Ontario Fresh Grape Growers' Marketing Board.

9 p.m.

All three of them have been consulted prior to moving to this stage. It is interesting to note that it was by way of letter from the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission back in 1980, when this concept was first pursued by one of the English cider manufacturers, that a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food from the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission gave its approval and blessing to this undertaking. I would just quote one paragraph from that letter, which is most significant. "In giving their support to the proposed change, the commission welcomed the opportunity of increased apple sales and employment."

Thus, it was with the blessing of the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission and the support of the wine council that these approvals were given by our Ministry of Agriculture and Food, because they will contribute to the wellbeing of our local wine industry.

The same restrictions on foreign concentrate are imposed here as exist under the regulations under the Wine Content Act. It is proposed that the new cider would have the same limitation as other wines of 30 per cent import concentrate. There is consistency throughout here. It will be of benefit to the apple-growing industry in Ontario.

Mr. Renwick: Why did you not limit it to importations from the United Kingdom?

Mr. Williams: In fact, that is what will transpire. In response to the interjection by the member for Riverdale, I acknowledge the bill may not specifically state that but that will be the end result. I can assure the member this amendment will deal only with English ciders and importation of concentrates from England.

I shall now turn to the concern raised by the member for Prescott-Russell with regard to section 6 in the bill, a concern also raised by the member for Riverdale. The issue is with regard to appeals under the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act, now incorporating the Liquor Licensing Appeal Tribunal provision that an appeal under this section may be made on questions of law only.

The member for Riverdale suggested this was a change but in fact we are simply maintaining the status quo. Under the Liquor Licence Act, the

law has read and does read in this way at this time. The distinction is being made here simply because the procedure is different.

As we were discussing a few moments ago, one takes a second-stage approach or second stage of appeal under the LLAT that does not apply under the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal, which would be dealing with an appeal in the first instance. If one were continuing to operate under the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal as at present, one would be in a two-stage situation. That is to say, one would go to the board first to apply for a licence, then to the tribunal if unsatisfied with the decision of the board.

After two airings of the facts, it was felt there would be a thorough and complete airing of the factual aspects of the application. Thus, it would be only in the case of a point of law that it would be justified to proceed beyond the tribunal level.

The distinction that exists now will simply be continued. There is no substantive change being made here, as might have been suggested by the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, that section applies only to the courts.

Mr. Williams: Yes, right.

With regard to the matter raised by the member for Prescott-Russell, expressing some concern with regard to liquor permits on Indian reservations, it is my understanding that the federal legislation predominates here. Only if provincial legislation, which is general in nature, is not inconsistent with the federal legislation—and I might hasten to add that the federal legislation deals also with liquor-oriented matters—then, of course, the federal would prevail. In any event, at the present time liquor permits and matters of liquor and consumption come under the federal Indian Act.

Mr. Boudria: What about the appeal situation?

Mr. Williams: On the matter of the word “municipality” and its lack of application to Indian reservations, which was raised by the member for Kent-Elgin, this is a matter of concern to us. It is a matter that is currently being reviewed by our ministry through the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal. The matter is being given consideration at this time.

Mr. McGuigan: What if the bill is passed in its present form? What would that do?

Mr. Williams: Dealing with this point, which I think is a valid and well-raised point, if we can

sort out those differences we will bring in appropriate amending legislation in due course. However, I do not think there is need or cause to hold up this housekeeping legislation until that is resolved because that may take a bit of time. I am not suggesting it will be settled this week or next, but it is certainly something I can assure the members the ministry and the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario are taking a close look at.

The member for Riverdale was talking about section 5 of the bill, I believe, and in particular section 17. Again, we are speaking from an historical point of view where the decision of the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal has been final. In looking at subsection 11(1) of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act, it is provided, as the member for Riverdale pointed out, “Any party to proceedings before the tribunal may appeal from its decision or order to the Divisional Court in accordance with the rules of the court.”

9:10 p.m.

That does exist as it relates to all of the laws that are governed by our ministry and come under the jurisdiction of the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal. Again, we have to maintain the distinction that exists with regard to the process and procedures that prevail currently under the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal which will now be absorbed under the more comprehensive Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal. I think we still have to maintain some distinctions there as to the procedure because of the two-stage process that applies under the present liquor licence procedures. It does not apply with these other pieces of legislation that are governed by the activities and procedures of the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal.

The member for Riverdale queried the reason for section 39. This is section 7 of the bill. I would point out to him the reason for introducing the clause, “regulating and controlling the possession of liquor sold under any class of licence or permit,” is introduced in the legislation to recognize the fact that we have made some changes with regard to the sale of beer at sports events.

Without this amendment, of course, we could not limit the possession of beer at a stadium to a maximum of two containers per person as is proposed. That is the reason behind this seemingly innocuous section. It has real purpose and meaning. To remove that cloud of uncertainty and to assure the member for Riverdale, this is being done to complement other changes that are

being made to permit the reasonable sale of beer at professional sports activities at the stadiums.

This amendment will accomplish that in a way in which we hope there will be a continuing moderate consumption of beer in the ball parks. I can assure the member there are no "jokers" in the pack.

The member for Erie expressed concerns about foreign competition, cartels and monopolies as dealt with under federal legislation. He seemed to be relating those concerns back to section 1 of the bill dealing with the importation of concentrates for the making of English cider here.

Having explained the rationale behind permitting that, I think it will be clear to him that we are not allowing foreign competition to come here or trying to give exclusive rights to the Ontario wineries; we are simply trying to maintain a balance that has existed between the importation of grapes and other concentrates to assist the Ontario wine producers in making top-quality products. The intention of the legislation is not to create a monopoly or a cartel of sorts, but rather to enhance and improve upon the economy of the wine industry in this province.

I think I have addressed all the concerns raised by the members. If I have overlooked any point or concern which was raised, I would be pleased to have it drawn to my attention. Otherwise, I hope I have adequately satisfied the members with regard to their concerns, in explaining the matters behind some of the amendments which may not have been apparent on the surface of the bill as far as the specific wording is concerned.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, second reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, today I introduce for second reading certain housekeeping amendments to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act. Essentially, they are divided into two parts.

The first relates to procedural and operational issues concerning the ministry's Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal. The second will permit ministry employees, under certain specific circumstances, to share relevant information with other ministry staff or with a peace officer.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I will speak very briefly on this bill to indicate our support. This is a companion bill to the previous bill and, as such, I can see very little controversy. We intend to support the legislation.

It is merely technical in nature. If there was very little controversy with the previous bill, there seems to be quite a bit less with this one. It is a companion bill to formalize the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal and the other feature mentioned by the parliamentary assistant with regard to the sharing of information with peace officers.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on Bill 12, I have no specific concerns about the alteration in the structure and in the refinement of some of the rules applying to the tribunal, which is the greater portion of the bill.

I would ask the parliamentary assistant the reason for section 3 of the bill which will add the new section 14 to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act. What led the ministry to believe it was essential to have a statutory change to permit one employee of the ministry to disclose to another any information related to the administration of an act for which the minister is responsible?

What was the barrier it saw? What legal problem was it faced with that would require such amendment to the bill? It did seem to me to speak for itself that there would have been no such necessary prohibition. I would ask for an explanation of that.

Why is the additional clause which permits the communication of information to a peace officer in the event an employee believes a criminal offence has been committed, limited to a criminal offence and not extended to also include a provincial offence?

9:20 p.m.

Also, it has been immensely broadened by providing in subsection 2 of the proposed section that "an employee of the ministry includes an employee of any agency, board or commission for which the minister is responsible."

There must have been some specific situations that were of concern to the ministry; there must have been a concern about the extent and degree of the authority that was available under the statute. I would like to know precisely what prompted and motivated the ministry to decide it must have this substantial change in the act governing the minister's operations.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, the disclosure of information, of course, has always been a sensitive issue in government. In recent times the

whole matter of freedom of information and privacy of the individual has been very much in the forefront and is a matter that has been under discussion in this House in recent weeks—in fact, in recent days. I really think the essence of this legislation, with regard to section 3 in particular, speaks to that situation.

The fact of the matter is that it was felt that personnel within different ministries were duty bound not to exchange information between themselves because there was no specific statutory authority so to do. In order to abide by what they felt was an oath of office, if you will, as civil servants carrying out their duties and responsibilities within their given ministries, they felt confined to sharing matters of privilege within their own ministries and among their own personnel who are charged with the responsibility of dealing with any particular matter before them at any given time. The employees felt that to do otherwise would be in violation of their code of ethics as civil servants.

It was felt that in order to remove this impediment, which it is in some circumstances, civil servants had to be certain they would not in any way be chastised or prosecuted for sharing this information with personnel in other ministries that might be directly involved in a matter that is of mutual concern to two or more ministries.

The situation becomes even more difficult and sensitive in situations where there may be a suggestion that some illegal or criminal activity might have been going on to which the civil servant or the ministry in question had been privy. But they felt they had their hands tied in being unable technically to share that information with the law enforcement agencies around the province.

As far as provincial offences of a civil nature are concerned, they would be handled under the act where the information was ascertained. But if criminal intent has been shown, up until now there were these impediments that prevented the civil servants from discussing these matters freely with the police. What the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) reads into the section as to what it is about is exactly that.

On the face of the section, it clearly spells out what broader rights are being given to the civil servants. I can give assurance to the member for Riverdale that the sharing of this information will be done with discretion. It has to apply in the broader context of permitting such sharing of information to include employees of an agency, board or commission for which the minister is

responsible, whether it is the Liquor Licence Act we were talking about earlier in dealing with the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario or the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, whatever the case may be.

As an example of confidentiality provisions the member for Riverdale might find of interest, I cite those contained in the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act. I refer the member to section 16 of the act as an example of the confidentiality provisions. I might read this as an example.

I believe the member for Riverdale was involved with this legislation at the time it was formulated. He might well recall this particular section. Subsection 16(1) says: "Every person employed in the administration of this act, including any person making an inquiry, inspection or an investigation...shall preserve secrecy with respect to all matters that come to his knowledge in the course of his duties, employment, inquiry, inspection or investigation and shall not communicate any such matters to any other person except,

"(a) as may be required in connection with the administration of this act and the regulations...; or

"(b) to his counsel; or

"(c) with the consent of the person to whom the information relates."

As the member for Riverdale will be aware in recalling that section, it is a confining type of confidentiality provision that exists not only in this bill but in other legislation as well. Civil servants have rightly felt straitjacketed in certain respects in sharing information that is germane and extremely important to some matters that may be before a ministry. By preventing them from sharing this information with other ministries, it impedes appropriate administration at the governmental level. We think it would not be in the best public interest so to do.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

9:30 p.m.

House in committee of the whole.

CORPORATIONS INFORMATION AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Corporations Information Act.

Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 4:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 4 of Bill 6 be amended by deleting the

first two lines and substituting therefor the following:

"4(1) A corporation or an extraprovincial corporation shall file the following information:"

And by further adding:

"8. The name, head office, location and principal place of business of any corporation and the name and residency address of any person,

"(a) which holds, directly or indirectly, 10 per cent or more of any issues of share capital of the corporation, or

"(b) in which the company, directly or indirectly, holds more than 10 per cent of any issue of share capital, and

"(c) the percentage of shares held in each case.

"9. Where the corporation is a corporation with share capital, whether or not,

"(a) each director is a resident Canadian,

"(b) each director is a director of any other corporation related to the corporation as determined under the Corporations Tax Act and, if so, the name and head office address of such related corporation and the jurisdiction of its incorporation.

"10. Within six months of the end of its fiscal year if either its assets or its sales in Ontario in the fiscal year exceed \$1 million, an annual report for that fiscal year, which shall include a statement of sales, income and profit and a statement of assets and liabilities as of the end of that year in a manner to be determined by regulation."

And that section 4 be further amended by adding thereto the following:

"4(2) Any material change in the information filed with the ministry under paragraphs 1 to 9 of subsection 4(1) of the bill shall be reported to the ministry within 30 days of its occurrence."

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned during the debate on second reading, part of the amendment before the members has already been accepted by the Legislature. That was a long time ago, in 1972. The sections I refer to deal with the requirement to disclose, first, whether or not a corporate director is a resident Canadian; and second, whether a director is a director of any other corporation.

You will notice, Mr. Chairman, that I have moved this amendment to cover not just extraprovincial corporations but also Ontario corporations. So in a sense we are going back to a debate that has taken place in this Legislature a number of times going back at least to 1972 and, I am sure, before that. It has to do very simply with whether or not corporations that are registered

under the laws of this province, whether they are extraprovincial corporations or Ontario corporations, have an obligation to disclose information that identifies the beneficial owners of the corporation and whether they have an obligation to identify their relationships with other corporations.

As I say, the part of our amendment that is set out in paragraph 4(1)9 of my amendment to the bill has already been dealt with by the Legislature in 1972. At that time all three parties under the glorious leadership of the Honourable John Clement accepted the notion that corporations should register information as to whether or not their directors are resident Canadians and whether they are directors of any other corporations.

Again, that notion was supported by all three parties. However, it was never promulgated into law, which leads one to speculate as to what kind of internecine strife took place once Mr. Clement returned to the cabinet table. I suppose that is lost in the shroud of history.

We had another debate in 1976 and, for purposes of tonight's debate, I have simply incorporated the amendments that were moved in 1976 into the composite amendment I have just moved.

The amendment is really quite straightforward. Simply, it requires a corporation to identify itself and its owners and to reveal a certain amount of very basic information with respect to its financial activities. Quite frankly, it strikes me as ludicrous that the government, having gone through the fiasco of Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd., to cite the most recent illustration, could still be reluctant to support the principle of corporate disclosure.

I want to use the Cadillac Fairview transaction by way of illustrating the concern I am trying to get at with my amendment. We have to understand and remember that the Cadillac Fairview transaction was all about the use of the secrecy provisions in our legislation which governs and regulates corporate activity.

Mr. Boudria: It is more than that.

Mr. McClellan: The member will have his opportunity to speak and participate in the debate.

Mr. Roy: It is not like the NDP to interrupt either.

Mr. McClellan: It is nice to see the member for Ottawa East here. Is night court not about to go into session?

Mr. Roy: It is okay. I am keeping an eye on you. This is better than night court.

Mr. Ruston: Jealousy will get you nowhere, Ross.

Mr. Conway: But at least he is not in Florida.

Mr. McClellan: This is true. I wish I were in Florida.

The Cadillac Fairview transaction, Mr. Chairman, just to refresh your memory very briefly, involved the sale of the Cadillac Fairview apartments, first to Greymac Credit Corp. for \$270 million, and people more or less knew who Greymac was. They knew who the owners and principals were. It was sold again to Kilderkin Investments Ltd. for \$312.5 million and then it was sold for \$500 million to 50 numbered companies. These numbered companies were all registered under Ontario's legislation and were complying with the provisions of Ontario's laws.

There is only one flaw. Nobody knows who owned the numbered companies. Nobody knows who owned the Cadillac Fairview apartments. The 30,000 tenants of Cadillac Fairview had not the slightest idea who the owners were of the 50 numbered companies who paid \$500 million for the largest single group of apartment buildings in Ontario.

The government is still in front of us saying there is no need to toughen up our corporate disclosure laws. I have to remind government spokesmen of the seriousness of the scam that was perpetrated by the authors of the Cadillac Fairview transaction, which involved the use of the secrecy provisions of our corporate registration legislation. I will just cite quickly the conclusions from chapter 12, page 239, of the Morrison report by way of reminder as to what it was that these people were up to.

"After examining under oath Rosenberg, Markle and Player and a number of other officers, directors, employees and advisers of the companies and other persons, the inquiry has concluded that the objective of the Cadillac Fairview transaction was to enable the principals who controlled the three trust companies (including Player) to withdraw \$152 million from those companies primarily for their own purposes."

9:40 p.m.

They were trying to get at the money in the trust companies, which they did, for their own purposes. On page 240 it says: "As already stated, Player, Mastin and Markle must have known the true nature of the arrangements between the principals, if any, behind the number company purchasers and Kilderkin."

In other words, it is entirely unclear and it remains a complete mystery after a royal commission, after all of the hubbub and hullabaloo,

as to whether there are any principals behind the 50 numbered companies. These were the companies which ostensibly purchased the largest group of apartment buildings in Ontario, for all practical purposes the landlords for some 30,000 citizens of this province. It is entirely unclear, because of the imbecility of our corporate disclosure legislation, whether there are any principals behind any of the 50 numbered companies.

The government still cannot tell us whether there are or who they are. Is it Rosenberg, Player, Mastin, Markle and company who own the 50 numbered companies? Is it Mr. Qutub? Is it the man in the moon? Is it the cosmos of the outer galaxy? Nobody has the slightest idea who is behind the 50 numbered companies. The government stands here again tonight quite prepared to say: "It is none of anybody's business who owns the corporation. This is part of the sanctity of the free enterprise system and the sacred rights of the individual." It talks as though a corporation had the same human rights as those that attach to a person.

Mr. Roy: Once we get freedom of information there will be no problem.

Mr. McClellan: No, that will not help at all, because the government does not have the information. The member for Ottawa East says that once we get freedom of information this will solve the problem. The problem is that the information is not registered with anybody. There is no requirement to disclose who owns a corporation, how many shares they have, whether they own other corporations, whether they are Canadians or whether they come from the fourth galactic empire.

It really is science fiction that this could be happening in this province, that the largest single group of apartments in our province could be sold, resold, flipped and then finally end up in the ownership of 50 numbered companies. Nobody had the slightest idea of who they were, who was behind them or what their intentions were, and 30,000 people were left in the most precarious kind of position. Of course, that does not even begin to deal with all the ramifications of this crazy episode.

I return again briefly to the concluding chapter of the Morrison report with respect to what this whole scam did to some of the most prestigious financial institutions in the province, Seaway Trust Co. and Seaway Mortgage Corp. "Seaway Trust, at January 7, 1983, had no proper borrowing base because its assets were substantially overstated. Additionally, its records and

documentation were incomplete and its accounting system was seriously deficient." And they were at risk.

This is what the Morrison report has to say about Greymac Trust Co. and Greymac Mortgage Corp.: "As far as the Greymac companies are concerned, the inquiry has come to the same conclusion as for the Seaway companies, that is to say that it was only a matter of time before both Greymac Trust and Greymac Mortgage failed."

With respect to Crown Trust Co., reading from page 242 of the concluding chapter, the Morrison report states: "Crown Trust was presumably in a sound financial position at October 7, 1982. By December 31, 1982, its shareholders' equity had been substantially lost leaving it with virtually no borrowing base."

Again, another financial institution which had been in a very sound position had been brought to a very precarious state of affairs by virtue of the fact that—going back to the point I started with—the principals in the Cadillac Fairview transaction were motivated by a desire, pure and simple, to extract \$152 million from the trust company to use for their own purposes, using the device of the secret numbered company as their *modus operandi*.

They perfected that apparatus in a number of smaller and less significant transactions. Once they had practised it a number of times and were ready for the really big leagues they unleashed their tactic, which involved the use of the secrecy provisions of Ontario's regulatory legislation.

Mr. Boudria: It was regulatory failure.

Mr. McClellan: My colleague interjects that it was a regulatory failure. Of course it was. Nobody disputes that for a second.

There is also a huge hole in our legislation that makes it impossible for the regulatory agency to know, in the first case, whether a transaction such as the final flip to the 50 numbered companies was an arm's-length transaction, whether there were, as the inquiry said, any principals behind the 50 numbered companies or whether it was somebody from the fourth galactic empire, somebody in Saudi Arabia or whoever. It is absolutely ludicrous.

Mr. Laughren: Or from Etobicoke.

Mr. McClellan: No, not from Etobicoke; perhaps somebody from eastern Ontario.

I am mystified the government fails to move quickly after having before it a scam that has led to a serious undermining of the most sacred financial fiduciary institutions of Ontario. Having brought Bay Street into the ministry to run it for a while until Bay Street could get it sorted out,

having sent the Bay Street boys back to Bay Street, I suppose the government will now go back to sleep.

Mr. Conway: You sound as though Crown Trust might hold your mortgage.

Mr. McClellan: It does not. I am delighted to be able to tell the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) that my mortgage is with a credit union, and not the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union either.

We have had the most gruesome illustration that would be possible for the mind of some deranged science fiction writer to compose for us, laid out and acted out here and outside the Legislature over the course of the last three years. The government still stands there like the proverbial ostrich with its head in the proverbial sand saying there is absolutely no need for any kind of corporate disclosure legislation.

By adopting that attitude, and I say this to my dear friends in the Liberal Party who I suspect on this issue—

Mr. Mancini: You do not have any friends here, Ross.

Mr. McClellan: I certainly do. I am very selective, but I do have some friends in the Liberal Party. I have to say I am suspicious that their traditional ideological biases may make it difficult for the members to support our amendments, because I also recall that in 1976 during the minority period, alas, the Liberal Party sided with the government and voted against the amendments that are in front of the House again this evening.

I hope the members have learned their lesson. I hope they have seen the kind of thing that can happen when people are able to use the secrecy provisions of our corporation legislation as a cloak to mask underhanded motivations and basically dubious transactions.

9:50 p.m.

The Cadillac Fairview Corp. episode is simply the most flagrant and glaring that has come to our attention in the last 24 months or so. But it is not unique. The shenanigans of numbered companies are legion and legendary in our province.

The problems of monopoly concentration cannot even be understood, let alone dealt with, unless we have legislation that indicates whether directors of one corporation are also directors of other corporations.

The kind of concern the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) has raised with respect to foreign ownership of agricultural land cannot

be addressed when there is no requirement for corporations to identify themselves.

Before I conclude, I want to deal with the concern raised by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). He seemed to imply that this amendment was somehow designed as an attack on the family farm. It is not. We share the kind of concern raised so well by the member for Huron-Middlesex.

I can recall in the middle-1970s that Stephen Lewis raised precisely this concern. I have a recollection the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) did not accept the notion that there was any significant danger to be posed through foreign ownership of agricultural land. That may be a canard which I am sure he will want to correct.

It is certainly true that the opposition at this time is united in its concern about the consequences of foreign ownership of farm land, as the member for Huron-Middlesex pointed out earlier today. It opens up the prospect of the family farm being replaced by a group of tenant farmers who are working for offshore farm land owners.

Again, how we can get any handle on the extent of the problem without corporate disclosure legislation is beyond me. I do not pretend any kind of mastery of farm issues or agricultural policy. We are not intending to cast a net that would catch the family farm in our amendment.

If we have done that through inadequate draftsmanship, it is not beyond the wit of draftsmanship to exempt the Ontario family farm from the legislation. That certainly would be our intention. We would welcome any amendments if there is a concern that the combined assets sale of \$1 million is inadequate to exempt the family farm. A specific exemption can be incorporated in the bill to take care of that.

I think it is important, however, that the legislation provide a vehicle which permits us to monitor the extent of foreign ownership, not just of industrial manufacturing and business corporations but also of agricultural corporations which are, as has been pointed out, an increasing threat.

With these thoughts, I invite the other members of the assembly to respond to the amendments we have put forward and to engage in some debate on them. I hope the parliamentary assistant's mind is not completely closed to accepting some of the main ideas set out in the amendment we have moved, perhaps even the whole thing.

Perhaps the parliamentary assistant has a desire to consult with the Minister of Consumer

and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) and to come forward with a counterproposal with respect to information disclosure. However, I think it is quite inadequate to leave things as they are set out in the bill with, first, basically no requirement for any meaningful ownership disclosure with respect to Ontario corporations of any kind, and second, only the most limited requirement for disclosure with respect to extra-provincial corporations.

As I said earlier, once an extraprovincial corporation has complied with the terms of Bill 6 and supplied all seven pieces of information, we still do not have the slightest idea who the owners are, whether they are resident Canadians, whether the directors are directors of other corporations, what their relationships are or what the financial activities of the corporation are in a general kind of way.

The minister is prepared to give us an amendment that would identify the provincial agent. In most instances, it would be their lawyer. However, that does not tell us what they are. It does not tell us anything about them except who their lawyer is, and that information is generally available. If I am not mistaken, we know who the lawyers are for the numbered companies and for Cadillac Fairview. That does not tell us anything. It does not tell us what they are. It does not tell us what their relationships are with other companies.

I think this is quite inadequate. It is not good enough to say: "This is a companion to Bill 5. It is very narrowly drafted, and it is not meant to be as broad as the member for Bellwoods was trying to make it." That is not an answer. It is just saying the government has not confronted the issue of the need for modern corporate disclosure legislation in this province.

In Bill 6, the government has an opportunity to do precisely that. If it is not happy with this language for Bill 6, we invite it to come forward with a counterproposal. I hope it will not impose the customary, post-1981 veto on this most worthy amendment.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak briefly on this amendment. As I indicated this afternoon, our party will not favour this amendment with our support. There are various reasons I say that.

Some hon. members: Ah.

Mr. Boudria: I hear a few "ahs" from the left-hand side of this House. I would like to hear the comments of some of the members to my left on this amendment. I would like to hear the comments of the agriculture critic of that party. I

would like to know what he thinks of this amendment, but he is not here at this time. I would like to hear the comments of our colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), and I hope he speaks to this amendment. I would also like to hear the comments of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who I understand is the tourism critic for that party. I would like to know how he feels about this amendment.

When I hear the noises coming from the left of where I am standing, I hope the members speak afterwards as to how they feel this amendment would be beneficial and what would be some of the harmful side-effects caused by this.

In looking at this amendment, I am not a lawyer. I do not apologize for that because we must never apologize for not being lawyers, I am told. I am looking at it from a layman's point of view. That is what I am, in legal matters at least, and perhaps several other things. Giving it a cursory review, I find there are many things about this amendment which are offensive. Let me give a few "for instances."

This afternoon I mentioned that I was concerned about the effect this would have on an incorporated family farm, because a farm is capital intensive. I will strengthen that argument for a few moments, and then I will proceed with other concerns I have about the amendment.

10 p.m.

Looking at an incorporated family farm that has assets exceeding \$1 million in one year—and Mr. Chairman, being the knowledgeable person you are, you will know that most family farms are in that situation because they are capital-intensive businesses—this incorporated family farm would have to submit an annual report for the fiscal year, including a statement of sales, income, profit, assets, liabilities and so forth, and it would have to state who the beneficial owners are beyond 10 per cent of that enterprise.

We are discussing various issues in this Legislature, including freedom of information and the protection of privacy. Surely the small business operator in the province is entitled to some privacy for the management of his own personal and family-type small business. Members of this party have long spoken for the small enterprises in the province, for the farms and the small businesses.

The small, independent grocery store—the type that will shortly be selling wine and beer—properly located in one of our towns, has a large real estate value because of its location. The stock on hand is very expensive. The cost of food, the stock and the fixtures is very expensive.

It is quite conceivable their total assets exceed \$1 million, including real estate. That is not abnormal.

Why should we ask the small grocery store operator to provide a statement of sales, income, profit, assets, liability, and so forth, to this government at the end of the year? Is it not important to preserve the sanctity of the small businesses we have?

In the tourism sector, a motel or a campground is very capital intensive. Large areas are involved, sometimes with many buildings, swimming pools and facilities for horses. They are very expensive things which have been accumulated over many years, usually by a family group, sometimes incorporated jointly among father, mother and three or four children with shares of those small businesses divided between them.

I fail to see what disclosing all that information is going to achieve. Clearly this is a situation in which we are trying to kill a mosquito with a sledgehammer. I recognize some of the concerns raised by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) with respect to the Cadillac Fairview deal and others. I sat on that committee for weeks listening to some of the testimony.

Mr. McClellan: No, you do not. You do not recognize them at all. You are trying to obfuscate and confuse.

Mr. Boudria: We are hearing obfuscation and confusion. This is the same member telling us this is the be-all and end-all to solve the problems of Cadillac Fairview. We know we are not going to solve the Cadillac Fairview issue, as it involved the appraisal of the London armoury pretending it was a Days Inn by an appraiser whose qualifications only he understood.

How is this amendment going to solve those kinds of evaluations? We all know it is not. Those of us who served on that committee know this kind of amendment will not solve the vast majority of the Cadillac Fairview problems or anything else we heard in the testimony about the failure of some of those trust companies.

Again we are hearing the member for Bellwoods read from the Morrison report and tell us what bad shape the books of Seaway Trust were in at the time Morrison and friends moved in to take over. That is quite possible. It is true; we learned that in our deliberations on the committee. What on earth does this amendment do towards straightening out the books of Seaway Trust? I do not understand that at all.

Mr. McClellan: Truer words were never spoken.

Mr. Boudria: This amendment does nothing to correct many of the inequities we have heard about during the fall of the great trust affair.

I have been doing some reading on the issue; I have participated in most if not all of the committee meetings as a member of the committee. I think it is very interesting that if you get a chance to look at the draft report we have prepared, which will be tabled in this Legislature shortly, you will not find those kinds of measures mentioned.

None of these things was contemplated by members of the committee, and I challenge the member for Bellwoods to come up with a recommendation in our report that says we need this kind of amendment in order to correct the fall of the trust companies. Members of his caucus have copies of that report, and I challenge them to bring it out. We had an all-party committee look into this matter, and this kind of solution was not brought forward by the committee in its wisdom when we made our recommendations.

I did indicate this afternoon that we have many concerns regarding foreign ownership of farm land, and there are a variety of ways in which the government is going to have to address that. Let me illustrate some of them to the members. We need provisions by which the inventory of class 1, 2, 3 and 4 farm land in this province will be precluded from sale to foreign investors. This has nothing to do with the issue of whether investors should buy a portion of land that is not class 1, 2, 3 and 4 farm land; that is a different issue altogether.

As I said this afternoon, we in this party have been expressing concern for a number of years about the foreign ownership of productive agricultural land in this province; we are very concerned about that and we have been raising it in this Legislature for a number of years. I do not see how this amendment in itself would correct this kind of situation.

On behalf of our party, I am indicating that I cannot be convinced by the arguments set forth by the member for Bellwoods that this amendment would indeed be beneficial to the people of this province. I think the harmful effects far outweigh any good that may come of it.

I see the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) nodding, and I am glad to note that I have finally persuaded him of the fact that this amendment does not seem to have the value at least one of his colleagues believes—not all, because I certainly do not think all of his colleagues approve of this amendment; but I am glad to see the member for Nickel Belt is now on

side and will be voting with us against this amendment.

I just wonder whether members are advocating a division on this issue. If there were a division, it would be interesting to see just how the members of that caucus would vote on this particular amendment. I have a feeling they would not all be on the same side, and perhaps I should just leave it at that.

10:10 p.m.

When we are dealing with this amendment, we are not looking only at extraprovincial corporations. As the member for Bellwoods said in his opening remarks, he is of the opinion that corporations or extraprovincial corporations should be subject to the amendment he proposed tonight. If there is any merit in this for an extraprovincial corporation, particularly in the area of an extraprovincial corporation purchasing class 1, 2, 3 and 4 agricultural land in Ontario, there is certainly no merit in having a provincially incorporated corporation subjected to this amendment.

In summary, on behalf of our party, although we are especially concerned about the issue of farm land being sold to foreign interests—and we are of the opinion that publicly traded corporations should be subjected to disclosure, which is only good and proper—we think the penalties people would pay through this amendment make it totally unacceptable. Principally, they would be the small business operators of this province. I am looking forward to hearing the comments of the parliamentary assistant on this.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege and order: I wonder if I might bring to the attention of the House that the House leader of the government party, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), is today celebrating three decades of marital bliss. Since that is such a significant celebration, we thought the members of the House should be aware of it, and here he is dutifully representing his constituency, his ministry and his responsibility in the House.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Chairman, as was mentioned at the beginning of the debate this afternoon, there is a certain hazard in dealing separately with companion legislation. Clearly, this has occurred this evening because we tend to lose sight of the fact that Bill 6 is complementary to Bill 5 which deals exclusively with extraprovincial corporations.

The member for Bellwoods made it quite clear in introducing his amendment that he was now exercising a bit of largess in deciding to expand

his original amendment and that of his colleague the member for Riverdale, who was about to bring forward a similar amendment in the fall of last year before the debate on this legislation was cut off.

At that time, the amendments were limited to extraprovincial corporations, but with this third revision that came forward this evening, we now find, as the member for Bellwoods stated, they would like it to apply across the board to all corporations. One can see a rather convoluted form of consistency in at least applying it to all corporations, even though we are talking only about extraprovincial corporations here, and so section 4 states.

While they are trying to apply a bit of consistency, they are losing sight of the purpose of this legislation in that it was designed to deal exclusively with the extraprovincial corporations.

I also note that in the first amendment they have applied a bit more largess in moving from a five per cent to a 10 per cent factor. They have broadened the base considerably in the type of disclosure information they are looking for. From a philosophical and a practical point of view, as soul-searching as it has been, we have not been able to find ways and means of accommodating the member for Bellwoods in introducing this type of amendment.

It was interesting to hear his somewhat broader elaboration on the historical evolution of the Corporations Information Act. He did get to the point of acknowledging that the amendment in 1972 was never proclaimed into law. I appreciate his having acknowledged that fact. Unfortunately, he did not go on to elaborate upon the matters the member for Prescott-Russell touched upon, and that is what happened subsequently in 1976.

I must say the member for Bellwoods has been remiss in not acknowledging the authorship of his colleague the member for Riverdale on some of those amendments in 1976. The member for Riverdale persisted in his efforts to identify resident Canadian directors in the legislation and to identify the name and residence address of any persons who would hold, directly or indirectly, five per cent or more of any issued share capital of the corporation, or in which the company, directly or indirectly, holds more than five per cent of any issued share capital. The percentage of shares held in each case would be disclosed. This was defeated at the time, as the member for Riverdale will recall. By nodding his head, I see he does.

The official opposition did not accede to that amendment for the reasons stated by the member for Prescott-Russell this evening. He should continue to be consistent in opposing legislation that would be an onerous burden on the corporations and companies of Ontario.

When the members of the third party talk about corporations, they seem to have fixed in their minds the General Motors of this world. They forget about the small corner store operators who would be caught in this net of disclosure. It would certainly work prejudicially against the small private business corporations that are trying to eke out a living in this highly competitive, free enterprise world.

There is a distinction to be made that I do not think the member for Bellwoods made this evening with regard to offering and non offering companies. There are different ground rules that exist. With the offering companies, we have procedures available by way of disclosures to the Ontario Securities Commission, so the information of importance to the investors and shareholders in those companies has to be disclosed. They have to satisfy the regulatory agency in the form of the Ontario Securities Commission.

Clearly, the proposed amendment goes far beyond the intent and purpose of this legislation and far beyond what is realistic as far as encouraging both domestic and extraprovincial corporations to continue to do business in Ontario is concerned.

I will make one further observation with regard to subsection 4(10) of the amendment put forward by the member for Bellwoods, which asks for a financial statement to be filed by companies exceeding \$1 million in sales. This is far below the standards that prevail at the moment.

I think the member for Riverdale participated in the discussion in which it was agreed that Ontario corporations do not need to provide an audit until their assets and sales exceed \$2.5 million and \$5 million respectively. Now we are getting down to the cornerstore type of operation and asking them to make these onerous disclosures, which is totally impractical and inconsistent with what we are trying to accomplish in the legislation.

10:20 p.m.

Unfortunately, time does not permit me to go more deeply into some of the other matters touched upon by the member for Bellwoods. I would point out that the 50 companies he referred to in the Cadillac Fairview matter are 50 out of

more than 300,000 companies doing business in Ontario, so we have to put that in perspective.

The provisions here are so onerous as really to inhibit companies that would want to do business under a corporate structure. In particular, I am sure it would tend to scare off outside corporations and offshore companies that would otherwise be interested in coming to this province to do business and not only to help improve their corporate profits but, more important from our point of view, to contribute to the economy of Ontario.

For these reasons and for others I do not have time to elaborate upon given the hour, it is with reluctance I have to say we oppose the amendment proposed by the member for Bellwoods this evening.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, if this is the appropriate time, I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant if he is going to introduce an amendment with respect to the name and address of the agent for service in the province?

Mr. Williams: Mr. Chairman, earlier this afternoon the member for Bellwoods mentioned he was going to introduce two amendments, the second of which was a much simpler and more straightforward amendment, and one which, in discussion with the member for Riverdale and the member for Bellwoods, I suggested the government would accept.

It would be a further amendment to section 4 of the bill that would read—and I am prepared to introduce the amendment from this side of the House—that section 4 of the act as set out in section 4 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

“8. The name and office address of its agent for service in Ontario.”

I point out it simply reintroduces wording that currently exists in the present section 4 of the act, so it would not detract from what is there and, in effect, would maintain the status quo. We have no objection to that amendment being introduced and the legislation being amended accordingly.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 4 will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Williams moves that section 4 of the act as set out in section 4 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

“8. The name and office address of its agent for service in Ontario.”

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, may I say how delighted I am the government was prepared to accept this amendment, because it is an absolutely essential amendment to the bill. It may well have been an oversight that it was not included in the first place, but it is necessary that anybody wishing to sue a corporation carrying on business in Ontario must be able to find a person on whom process can be served.

Motion agreed to.

Section 4, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 5 and 6 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment.

ARBOREAL EMBLEM ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved second reading of Bill 14, Arboreal Emblem Act.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping the minister would show us a little showbiz pizzazz here tonight and put two trees on every member's desk—at least a couple of container stocks on each member's desk.

Because of the length of time I have left, perhaps it would be best if I just read a poem by Thomas P. Murray called *The Great Pine Tree*.

“A great pine tree in the valley stood
a relic for so many years,
A story told so sad and so cold
that it brought the eyes to tears.

“It told how it grew from a little seed
away up to the sky,
And how birds all would rest in the fall
for points down south to fly.

“How it felt the warmth of the summer sun
as it saw the forest grow,
And then the cold when the summer is old
and the woods are frost and snow.

“It saw the Indian passing by centuries ago,
With a cunning step and steady hand
to guide both arrow and bow.

“It heard the cracks of the workman's axe
over on yonder hill,
It heard the howl of the wolf and the owl
as they roamed around the kill.

“It saw the flame of the forest fires
that swept across the plain,
How it welcomed the size of the western skies
with promising signs of rain.

"As the old pine tree grew stout and tall
the older and wiser it grew,
And stories would tell to surprise all well
if we could know what the old tree knew."
That applies in spades to the minister.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I might thank my friend the member for Nickel Belt for reading my late grandfather's poem into the record. This is a bill that would give him a great deal of pleasure and, on behalf of the many people in the great Ottawa Valley, where the white pine has been king for a long time, I want to commend my friend the sometime resident of Westmeath township, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), for bringing it forward in this, the year of our bicentennial. I must say I think it is an entirely appropriate piece of legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

The Deputy Speaker: It being 10:30 of the clock—

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, just before you draw that to our attention, on behalf of my colleagues I would not want to miss associating ourselves with the comments made a few moments ago by the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). She drew our attention to the fact that this was the 30th anniversary of the marriage of the government House leader. The Minister of Education noted he spent his anniversary diligently in the public service in the Legislature. On behalf of the Liberal Party, might I extend to the government House leader our very best wishes on 30 years and on the very dutiful way in which he celebrated the occasion.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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- Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
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No. 28

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, April 26, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 26, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Just before proceeding I would ask all members in the assembly to join with me in welcoming a group of legislative interns from British Columbia who are in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

STUDENT VENTURE CAPITAL PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share with the honourable members important news on a highly successful employment initiative of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. I am speaking of the student venture capital program, which is designed to encourage entrepreneurial activity among our young people.

Student venture capital offers interest-free loans of up to \$2,000 to students who wish to plan and operate their own summer businesses. The program is cosponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. This cosponsorship is an excellent example of government and private sector co-operation.

During the program's first eight years of operation, the number of businesses grew slowly but steadily from 37 in 1973 to 151 in 1981. However, in 1982 there was a dramatic rise in business ventures to 424. I am delighted to report that, because of the vigorous work of the secretariat and the students, the number of businesses in 1983 more than doubled again to a grand total of 876.

Even with the higher volume of loans and the increase in the number of businesses, nearly 87 per cent of last year's loans have been repaid. This is an enviable record and a credit to the students and the program sponsors.

Student venture capital is really a low-cost program; the average cost per participant is less than \$500. In addition, an evaluation of last year's program showed that 42 per cent of the businesses hired at least one employee, thereby helping further to alleviate unemployment during the summer months.

This year I am pleased to state that to date we have received nearly 600 applications, which is 65 per cent more than at this time last year. I am confident the secretariat will reach our goal of supporting 1,100 summer businesses through student venture capital. I also look forward to seeing new and innovative enterprises such as those that have been developed by our young people in past years.

The variety and originality of the student businesses has always impressed me. Types of businesses have included house painting, dance lessons, landscaping, fast-food retailing and computer software design. For example, last summer in Muskoka, 22-year-old Paige Sillcox started a business by baking cookies in the kitchen of her parents' cottage and selling them locally. Her student venture capital experience was so successful that, upon returning to school this fall, she hired five full-time employees to carry on the business. Miss Sillcox owns two delivery vans and now sells her "Cookie It Up" products to Holt Renfrew, Ziggy's, Eaton's and the Kitchen Table. All this was from a summer with student venture capital.

In Toronto, three partners set up a home carpet cleaning company and were so successful they have now landed contracts for commercial buildings. In London, one young woman hired 20 others to knit Icelandic wool sweaters, hats and mittens which were sold on consignment to stores in Welland, Stratford and Fonthill. These are a few examples which demonstrate how worth while this program is for our young people.

Word of the tremendous success of Ontario student venture capital has spread to other provinces. Representatives from other provincial governments have been in contact with my secretariat for consultation in designing their own programs. Saskatchewan is planning a pilot project, while British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have fully operational programs modelled after our own.

In addition, there have been inquiries from Quebec, Alberta and the Yukon about starting a similar program. We can be proud of the fact that Ontario has taken the lead in developing this

youth employment initiative. I would like to add that my predecessors in this secretariat have done their share in making this a success. I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to bring my colleagues up to date on the secretariat's student venture capital program.

VARIETY CLUB BIKE-A-THON

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: If there are no further statements, I would like to announce that I will be riding in the Variety Club Bike-a-thon on Sunday. I have had a pledge from the Liberal House leader for 50 cents. I have had pledges from others for considerably less, mainly on that side of the House. The Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) has offered a cardiac service all along the west-end route.

I would like to ask all members if they would be interested in giving to a cause that will not only raise money for Variety Village, which is a very worthwhile cause, but also succeed in tiring me out for at least a day and possibly many more hours than that.

I would invite them all to take the pledge per kilometre. It is 32 kilometres. I hope to be able to make the entire route and I look forward to receiving a pledge from all the members of the Legislature and from those in the gallery as well. If anyone wants to give me money, the phone number is 763-5435.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good cause. I will even allow you to contribute if you care to.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, replying to what is a questionable point of order by the leader of the New Democratic Party, his being tired out for a day will not alter the political fortunes of either himself or the party. I say that very kindly.

Mr. Rae: The Premier is so kind.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He can bike all over the province and it may not make any difference.

I would be delighted to participate on the assumption that when the Premier or others on this side of the House become involved in these very worthwhile endeavours, as we do on occasion, the member for York South will show the same degree of generosity. I am referring to any modest involvement or contributions I or members of my family in Brampton might make. They are far more athletic than I am. I assume the member will be ready to participate fully.

In understanding that, I will be delighted to—I would love to see him bicycle for 32 kilometres. It will be instructive and healthy for him, and he may even learn something in the process.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, is the Premier going to contribute or not?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I said, subject to those understandings I would be delighted to join in.

Mr. Conway: I thought perhaps the Premier would take the leader of the third party off to an opera or an art gallery.

2:10 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, my first question is for the Minister of Energy concerning the disturbing announcements today at Douglas Point. I do not believe the minister is anywhere in the precincts, although he is expected.

Mr. Ruston: There he is.

Mr. Conway: He is on his way.

My question for the minister concerns the announcement made a few hours ago at Douglas Point that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. will not be restarting that prototype 200-megawatt reactor in May. The reason stated is it is no longer an economically viable operation in the opinion of AECL.

Will the minister advise this House of the views of his government on this critical matter? Over the past 25 years a program of nuclear power development has been developed in this province whereby Ontario Hydro, together with AECL, was going to operate one or two prototypes for technical and research purposes, on the strength of which the continued operation of major commercial reactors at Pickering and Bruce would be judged.

Does the announcement today that AECL and Ontario Hydro are going to discontinue the traditional operation of Douglas Point not fundamentally contradict the whole nuclear power development of this province over the past 25 years, one which was built on the ongoing operation of prototype reactors at Rolphton and Douglas Point?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the deputy leader of the opposition, one point I want to stress is that the Douglas Point reactor is the property of AECL. It is operated by Ontario Hydro. They purchase the electrical energy from this operation at a cost that is approximately equivalent to the cost of operating the Lakeview generating station.

It is my understanding that AECL has determined that the economics of a continued operation at Douglas Point do not justify extending that arrangement with Ontario Hydro. It has considered the various costs involved in

that operation and has reached this decision based strictly on economics.

At the same time I want the honourable member to know that Ontario Hydro is prepared over the next seven to eight months to discuss alternatives for the Douglas Point situation with AECL. Whether Hydro would become a part of all of that operation or a part of that operation will be determined over the next seven to eight months.

Mr. Conway: Is the minister then saying that he and Ontario Hydro are actively considering the ongoing and traditional operation of Douglas Point, accepting that, like Rolphton, it has an important ongoing function as a prototype?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I would not want the member to be misled. What I am saying is Hydro is actively considering the alternatives for the continued operation of a part or all of the Douglas Point reactor, not as a prototype but as a commercial unit.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, after 17 years of operation, AECL has decided its plant is no longer economical. After 12 years of operation, the Pickering plant in good measure has had to be shut down for extensive repairs costing more than it cost to build the first two reactors at Pickering.

Does the Minister of Energy not feel the announcement today confirms the need for an inquiry in this province into the economics of nuclear power? Every other jurisdiction in North America is looking hard at what it really costs to go the nuclear route exclusively, as Ontario is now going. Does the minister not think these messages are coming in loud and clear that perhaps we have to look again at the cost figures, particularly now since AECL has said it cannot afford to run the Douglas Point unit?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I want to correct one thing the leader of the third party said. Ontario Hydro is not moving exclusively to the nuclear option.

Mr. Rae: Seventy per cent in the next 10 years, and the minister knows it.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Seventy per cent of the output will likely come from nuclear by the time the Darlington station is completed; 50 per cent of the capacity of the system will depend on the nuclear option.

Mr. Rae: The government has mothballed the rest of the system. It has got the rest of the system down.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I cannot agree with the leader of the third party. I think AECL, in conjunction with Hydro, in putting the Douglas Point operation in place—

There seem to be a lot of distractions here, Mr. Speaker. I am having difficulty in concentrating.

Mr. Speaker: There is a private conversation going on. I think you have handled that supplementary very well, and we will have the final supplementary.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether or not the announcement by AECL today about Douglas Point has any bearing on the ongoing relationship and operation that Ontario Hydro and AECL both have at Rolphton? Will this announcement today at Douglas Point have any impact on the ongoing operation of Rolphton NPD-2?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the honourable member's concern about the operation at Rolphton. At this time I have no reason to think the two are related at all.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier this afternoon. He is in such a good mood.

I would like to ask him why the advertising expenditures of his government are being allowed to increase uncontrollably when all other sectors are forced to operate under the limitations imposed by his restraint program. In 1982, ads in the media were allowed to increase by almost 25 per cent; last year they increased by a further 17 per cent, and that is just for media costs and does not include the other associated costs.

When the government is limiting increases in transfer payments to municipalities, welfare payments and public sector wage settlements to five per cent or less and has exhorted the private sector to do the same, how can the Premier possibly justify these increases of 25 and 17 per cent, almost 45 per cent over the last two years?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member fully expects me to justify it to his satisfaction and I know he will be reasonable as he listens to these figures. They are subject to some correction.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The real figures are higher?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. My understanding is—and this is subject to correction—that advertising for the government in the calendar year 1982 was \$15,068,400; and there may have been a few cents, I am not sure. In the calendar year 1983,

government advertising was \$15,292,300, which is an increase—

Mr. Cunningham: Absolutely not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just a second.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know the member for Rainy River wants the answer; I know the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) cannot understand it.

If the member for Rainy River will bear with me, according to my calculations, that represents a 1.5 per cent increase in government advertising.

In the calendar year 1982, the Ontario Lottery Corp. spent \$10,916,700; in the calendar year 1983, it would be \$12,546,900, which is an increase of roughly 14.9 per cent. If one combines the two figures, one gets seven per cent, to round it off.

I think that in the government's internal program our commitment to advertising has come within the guidelines we have expressed. I have difficulty, because I am not a marketing expert, in terms of the lottery—

Mr. Kerrio: Oh, yes, you are.

Mr. Wrye: You take the polls.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not pretend to be a marketing expert. If the member consulted with the chairman of the lottery corporation, as I know he would be delighted to do, the chairman would explain to him that there is something of a direct relationship between the amount of advertising done for lottery programs and the numbers of tickets that are purchased.

I know it is simple to combine the two, but I want to make it abundantly clear that in terms of the government advertising of Ontario food products, which the member to his immediate right supports both philosophically and geographically, certainly in his own constituency—he is not Liberal-Labour, so he must be to the member's geographic and philosophical right; while it is simple to combine them, if he takes out government advertising, my figures indicate 1.5 per cent.

I can give the member a list of those areas about which we are informing the public. He can quarrel with some of them perhaps, yet I do on occasion read the odd column written by some of his colleagues where they take the odd bit of credit for some of the government programs we are so properly implementing.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I will accept the Premier's offer. I would like to get those figures, because neither the standing committee on public accounts nor the Provincial Auditor has been able to find out how much the government spends on advertising. The fact of the matter is that it spends more per capita in Canada than does any other private enterprise or government in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Interjections.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Just send it over. I have not asked my supplementary yet.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the member can place his supplementary without any comment or editorializing, we will hear it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: My supplementary is in two parts. How does the Premier justify the figures he gave us when in the standing committee on public accounts, which was dealing with this matter, the auditor showed the advertising figures overall to be in the neighbourhood of \$30 million? The auditor suggested they might even go as high as \$70 million if we knew what the government was spending.

How does the Premier justify any increase in the advertising budget when at the same time the Ontario career action program is underfunded by some \$5 million, funding for provincial parks has been so restricted that some are actually beginning to deteriorate, and the special services at home program, which enables developmentally handicapped children to remain at home with their families, will see a reduction for some of the cases from a \$10,000 maximum grant per family to \$3,000 per family?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know the member likes to represent his constituency. I may be wrong, but I recall him sitting there when the northwestern chambers of commerce had been in to see the cabinet. He has been there and he has enjoyed those meetings. I know it always galled him a little when they said such nice things about the government, but we always tried to include him in those.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The Premier should hear what they tell me in private.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know what they tell the member in private, but I also know that he did not stand up and object when they said great things about Minaki.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In fact, the member did not even stand up and object when his brother was at the opening of Minaki, extolling its virtues.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Does this have something to do with the question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The chambers of commerce come to us from northwestern Ontario and urge that this government spend more on tourism advertising. The member has heard them say it. It has been part of their formal resolutions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My recollection is—and these are rough figures again—that of the \$15 million or whatever the figure is, say for 1983, roughly \$11 million is for advertising the tourism industry in Ontario.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Whether it is \$7 million or \$11 million, it is a very large part of it. If it is \$7 million, it is close to 50 per cent and if it is \$11 million, it is more.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member that most people, including his chambers of commerce, have said to us that they get more by way of return because of this advertising than otherwise would be the case.

The member has a critic on his side of the House who has been urging larger expenditures for government advertising of tourism. I just ask him to consult with his critic in this area and let me then decide just who is reflecting Liberal or community party policy.

I do not pretend to be an expert in this field, but I have a rough list here. If we took out the lottery expenditures, we would be in about 16th place amongst all the private sector and governments in Canada.

I have to tell the member that his brother's government, whether led by Mr. Turner, Mr. Chrétien or Eugene Whelan, still will be spending some \$53 million. Does the member see where they have allocated another \$22 million in the past two or three weeks for the very same subject of tourism?

I say to the member, please do not say to us that we are spending more than anyone else, because that is not factually the case.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I am sure the Premier knows that Ottawa cut its advertising expenditure by almost three per cent last year.

Interjections.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The members opposite certainly have a selective sense of humour. They listen to the biggest mumbo-jumbo from the Premier for 10 minutes without laughing.

Before every provincial election, two things happen in this province: the amount the government spends on public opinion polling at taxpayers' expense goes up and the province's advertising expenditure goes up. In 1980-81, the year before the election, the spending on public opinion polls went up from \$430,000 to \$609,000. We on this side know the government's public opinion polling goes hand in hand with the advertising costs in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Will the Premier give us a commitment that in this year's budget—whenever the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) gets around to bringing it in—there will be, at the very least, a holding at a zero increase for advertising and public opinion polling in the province, if not a decrease?

Hon. Mr. Davis: What the member is really asking me to do is to say that with tourism, for instance, if we in our wisdom were to determine that another X dollars spent would return more than that to the economy of this province—that is what his party's critic argues; that is what the critic says—

Mr. Eakins: You put the tax on.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have listened to what the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) has said, and I have read what he says, and he has said to this government that we should be spending more on advertising the tourist industry. I do not challenge the member, but I ask him, if he has not said that, to tell me so.

Mr. Bradley: It is this kind of advertising we are talking about—a quarter page.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for St. Catharines.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Premier to cast his mind back to 1974, when Ontario was a lowly 36th in ranking with respect to advertising in Canada at a figure of \$2.6 million. In 1975—I wonder what year that was—Ontario jumped up to number nine with an increase in expenditure to \$6 million. It fell back in 1976 to number 23 and then jumped up again in 1977 to 13th with \$6 million. In 1980, there was a quantum leap to \$17.7 million and number six, which is the

position Ontario has proudly held in the rest of the country since then. Today it is at \$27 million, an increase of 933 per cent since 1974.

How can the Premier possibly justify that kind of increase at the same time as he is cutting back and restraining everybody else? The only people he is letting loose are his PR men, his consultants and the advertising agencies that work for the government of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have not checked the figures being used by the honourable member. I would just go to the latest year, 1983, where once again—and I am subject to some correction—there was an increase of approximately 1.5 per cent over 1982. The member can debate that figure, but that is my information and I assume it is relatively accurate.

If the member is suggesting the Ontario Lottery Corp. in its judgement—and these monies come out of lottery proceeds; it is no imposition upon the taxpayers—should not be increasing its commitment to advertising to promote this fund-raising technique, then he should say so.

I just want to quote to the member the budget suggestions from his colleague to his geographic and philosophical left. He says: "Raise the levels of full OHIP premium assistance to at least the Statscan low-income cutoff line, extend the partial assistance and advertise the program broadly." Would the leader of the New Democratic Party have a word with the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston)?

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Premier knows perfectly well that is an outrageous comparison. The increase that has taken place since 1974, even when crown corporations and the expenditure by lotteries are excluded, is 397.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: At the same time the Provincial Auditor said, "For various reasons, the government's reporting systems did not accurately disclose total advertising costs."

How can the Premier and his government possibly live with themselves when they are increasing their public relations budget at the same time as jobs are declining for young people and older people are living in poverty because they do not have the ability to provide for themselves and their families? The only spending that is going up in such dramatic terms, 933 per cent in the last 10 years, is for advertising and public relations. What kind of statement is he

giving us about the quality of government in Ontario today?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I fully appreciate that the member is trying to distort the figures. No one is going to argue that the information from this government has increased. I know the member sent me a list, but in percentage terms, the bulk of the money has gone to the advertising of Ontario as an attractive place to be in terms of tourism. The member may not like that, but that is where the bulk of the money has gone, including the increases. We think, in terms of the economic return to the province, it is a well-justified expenditure.

The economists can advise the member to the contrary, but it is intriguing that about every province in Canada has done the same, every state of the union is doing the same and the countries in western Europe are doing the same because they recognize tourism is a very basic part of their economic development. The member may not be interested in tourism but we are.

I would also recite some of the other programs which the member would call advertising and public relations. That is totally ridiculous. What is advertising or public relations with respect to the Ontario career action program?

The member talks about youth employment. He does not want us to communicate with the youth of this province about some of these programs, such as the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program. He does not want us to notify the seniors of the province about tax grants for seniors.

Shop Canadian was a part of our expenditure. I thought the member, of all people, would be somewhat in support of that. Another one is support of fitness. The member himself has become a fitness freak in the past few minutes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Half an hour.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In the last half hour.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You are half right.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Treasurer tells me I am half right. Is the member opposed to the promotion of physical fitness?

I will go on to the question of the youth secretariat and foster parenting. Surely the member is not opposed to that communication with the public.

Mr. Speaker: I think that was a very full answer, Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh no, I have not got around to drinking and driving yet.

Mr. Speaker: No. But I think it was done very well.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wanted to mention drinking and driving, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, would the Premier not agree that the effectiveness of our tourism advertising is being offset by the high taxation of people coming from other countries and other jurisdictions than Ontario?

For instance, since 1981 the number of tourists from the United States has decreased because of the high taxes, the ad valorem tax, the ripoff on Highway 401 on gasoline prices, the cost of food, the provincial tax and other associated costs.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that is a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think it is, Mr. Speaker, and I want to answer it if I may.

Mr. Speaker: All right; continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think it is an excellent question, because I assume from it that the honourable member has not challenged my statement that he in fact has promoted the idea of more advertising for tourism. Is that fair?

Mr. Eakins: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right. What the member is saying to me is that the promotion for tourism is offset by certain tax regimes in Ontario.

Mr. Eakins: I do not blame it on tourism; I blame it on advertising.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right. The member is saying to me that certain costs are offsetting the tourism program. I am not saying for a moment that the tax regimes here are identical with the major areas that draw tourism from our perspective, such as the northern United States and perhaps even the mid-Atlantic states. I have raised this with some of the people involved in the industry.

If the member were travelling by automobile to the United States—which I know he does not do, but let us say he were going to New York City by the normal route taken by most tourists—and if he calculated very carefully, with the Canadian dollar at 78 cents, the differential between what is paid here for gasoline and what is paid there, plus the tolls on the New York State Thruway, he would find the costs would become relatively comparable.

There is not an American tourist who comes to this country who, once he comes across the border, pays anything close to what he pays for the use of the major throughways in the United

States. I point this out as being one of the equalizing effects.

I should also say that while one can always argue tax regimes in terms of attractiveness and what they get when they get here, the visit is well justified with a 78-cent dollar and whatever it is they pay in taxation.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I agree with the Premier that the supplementary was relevant. However, since you ruled it irrelevant, what right does the Premier have to carry on that way following your ruling?

Mr. Speaker: It was not a case of the Premier overruling me. I said I did not think the question was a proper supplementary. The Premier asked for the opportunity, recognizing it was not, to reply to it and bring it into the context of the question.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I will not touch that one. I would not think of touching it.

As the Premier knows, this House has been sitting for five weeks. The government has been literally spinning its wheels. There has not been a single measure for young people undertaken in this Legislature. There has not been a single measure introduced for older people. Up to the present time, there has not been a single measure introduced to face up to any of the major problems facing the people of this province.

I would like to ask the Premier this and challenge him to do it: Why does he not adjourn the House, let us do our work in our constituencies and call us back when he is ready to do some serious business for the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member wants to—

Mr. Wrye: Is that a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought for a moment the member was going to issue me another challenge, but he did not have the nerve.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Premier. It has to do with the fact that there continues to be an enormous challenge facing the people of this province: to provide full equality between men and women.

I would like to ask the Premier how he feels about the fact that in the Stratford factory of Canadian Fabricated Products Ltd., where 82 per cent of the workers are women, most of whom are working at highly skilled industrial machines sewing the interiors of cars, those workers earn

24 cents less per hour than the sweeper in that plant despite the skills required in their job.

In addition to asking the Premier how he feels about that, I wonder why his government has consistently and persistently refused to introduce legislation requiring equal pay for work of equal value in Ontario, which would end that kind of inequity.

[Interruption]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to caution our visitors in the gallery that no participation and no demonstrations of any kind are allowed. If there is any further participation, I will have to clear the galleries.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I really would have thought that would have been the initial question of the member for York South. This morning we had—

Mr. Rae: Sorry to disappoint you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I just assumed it would. I assume he puts priorities on his questions.

Mr. Laughren: You can tell the Speaker what to do.

Mr. Rae: You can tell the Speaker what to do; you cannot tell us what to do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, of course not. I would not presume to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Back to the question, please.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The honourable member is obviously doing well enough on his own, from my perspective. I say to the leader of the New Democratic Party that we had presented to us this morning what I thought was a thoughtful and constructive brief from a group of women who had joined with or were part of a delegation led by Mr. Pilkey, the head of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

The member is not quoting from the synopsis that was read to us, but the total brief of a particular situation. I think the women who were present this morning fully understood that I was not, nor were any of the ministers who were there, familiar with the particulars in the full brief. The brief was presented to me some very few moments before the discussion.

I thought it was a very constructive, informative presentation. It was quite thoughtful. I said, in general terms, that I felt there really were very few differences in terms of the objectives they were stating, that Mr. Pilkey was stating and that we as members of this House, members of the government, would feel in terms of the general objectives.

I was not in a position to give any commitment this morning and I did caution them there may be differences in points of view as to the methods we will use to achieve those objectives. I am not in a position to comment on a particular situation within the brief.

They referred one or two other matters to me. I must confess I was surprised at one particular reference they made that I found quite disturbing. It is something I could not accept in terms of it happening, but I cannot comment at this point on the individual references within that more substantial brief.

Mr. Rae: The Premier had the courtesy to talk about priorities. I would like to say we are here in this Legislature, which is more than we can say for his seatmate the Deputy Premier, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch), who was not even here today to listen to the brief, after it had been arranged two months ago that he would be here to hear the brief.

Mr. Speaker: The question, please.

Mr. Rae: That is why we are here asking these questions. He was not even here to listen to them. The Premier knows that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: On a matter of personal privilege: I feel badly that the leader of the New Democratic Party would make those observations. I explained, not in detail, nor shall I, that the Minister responsible for Women's Issues was not there. He regretted it, but he was away with some reason.

To suggest that the member for Brock, who in my view is one of the most conscientious, sensitive individuals in this House, intentionally was not present this morning, I think is doing him a disservice and, quite honestly, doing the leader of the third party a disservice in the process.

Mr. Rae: I would be interested in knowing exactly what privilege it was that the Premier was speaking to in relation to himself.

If the Premier wants examples, he has had examples with respect to inequalities between men and women countless times in the Legislature. If he wants to hear examples, we can give him dozens, and we have given them in this House. The government has never responded adequately to those examples.

At Carleton University, a secretary who requires a grade 12 education, secretarial training and three years of related experience is earning \$6.50 an hour after probation, whereas a truck driver at the same university is being paid \$8.79 per hour. He needs to have grade 10, a class D licence and some truck-driving experience. That

is a tremendous inequality between those two people.

Why is the Premier not prepared to introduce legislation which would allow a process by which those workers who feel themselves to be aggrieved and feel they are being treated unequally would have some place, a court of reference, where they could go and have those grievances arbitrated?

Why has the Premier consistently refused to give them the kind of standard that would allow them to get equal pay for work of equal value in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think this was raised but I cannot recall the specific university. Was it Carleton? There is no question that the member has used certain examples. What I was commenting upon were the specific examples in the brief. I confess I have not had an opportunity to assess the specific examples that were cited in the brief presented to me this morning.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I think the Deputy Premier goes by the old adage, "It's better in the Bahamas." That may be one of the reasons he is not available to be with us today.

Mr. Speaker: The question, please.

Ms. Copps: None the less, the Premier is basically trying to hide behind the smokescreen that he has not had the opportunity to read the Ontario Federation of Labour brief today.

My supplementary is quite simple. First of all, the Premier, presumably through the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), has had the opportunity to review very extensively the Ontario Public Service Employees Union brief which was presented to the standing committee on social development last January with respect to the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. His own record and the government's record is abominable.

The Premier stated in the House that at the meeting today he expressed concern about specific cases of injustices that occur to grocery store employees with respect to the wage differential between cashiers and stock clerks, and the change of responsibilities that are sometimes entailed in their jobs but for which cashiers are not paid the same as stock clerks.

I wonder if he could make the commitment, based on his previous answer to the leader of the third party, that he and this government will in this session introduce legislation to make sure the concerns about which he has personally expressed some concern here today are addressed? He is concerned about the stock clerks and the

cashiers. Will he bring in legislation to make sure that situation will be addressed in this session?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into a debate with the member. My recollection is it was not a differential between stock clerks and cashiers. I may be wrong, but my recollection is there was a differential between clerk A and clerk B. I can be corrected if I am wrong, but I think that was the terminology used by the individual from Brockville, I believe it was, who made this point.

I think in discussions there is a feeling the present amendments before the House could resolve that particular problem. I cannot guarantee it, but there was some discussion relative to that.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, in view of the rhetoric in the throne speech about the government's determination to advance the just interests and rights of women and to improve women's rights and opportunities in the marketplace, how can this government continue to refuse to implement equal pay for work of equal value and mandatory affirmative action, both of which all of the women's groups who were in the lobby in the Legislature today agreed are absolutely essential to improve women's rights and opportunities in the marketplace?

Did the Premier make any commitment to those women to withdraw the present equal pay sections in Bill 141, the Employment Standards Amendment Act, and to bring in mandatory affirmative action which will have proper monitoring and proper encouragement for firms to implement mandatory affirmative action programs, to enable women to move up the employment ladder and into nontraditional jobs and to overcome the unfair exploitation of women in the job ghettos?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member for Beaches-Woodbine knows exactly what I said to the delegation that met with us this morning, but in case she does not know, I will try to paraphrase what I said.

The meeting started at roughly 11:15 a.m. We met until 12:40 p.m. or so. There were two or three issues that were raised in the brief that we did not have enough opportunity to explore to a greater extent; and one or two that gave me great concerns that probably do not involve, shall we say, legislation even, such as the question of sexual harassment. I thought their presentation in the brief was very necessary. We just did not have a chance to explore what other things might be done.

What I said to the group was that I think we share many of the same objectives; I cannot say in total. I could not guarantee to them there would not be some differences of opinion as to how we might achieve those objectives. The group that was in to see me quite obviously believes, as an example, voluntary or educational programs related to affirmative action will not work. They are suggesting it has to be made mandatory. That is their point of view and I respect it.

2:50 p.m.

I would say to the honourable member, and I think they would reiterate this, that in a very important discussion of about one hour and a half I made it quite clear it is not my position to make a commitment at a meeting of that nature. I told them that before they left.

I also told them their brief would be very carefully assessed by the government and by the ministers; and we would not only assess it carefully, we would also be dealing with it in terms of the general objectives they outlined. I hope I have paraphrased what I said to them at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I ask the co-operation of all honourable members not to carry on private conversations within the chamber, please.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue which is particularly relevant in view of what the Premier (Mr. Davis) has said about tourism in Ontario.

I want to draw the minister's attention to the government's market value assessment program which has frozen Marineland's \$20-million expansion plans and may force the entertainment park out of business and out of the country. Assessment has increased 70 per cent this year, leading to a potential tax increase of 87 per cent. The main reason for the increase is that the roller-coaster ride and other equipment were assessed as buildings rather than manufacturing equipment.

Marineland this year is spending more than \$3 million on advertising which draws tourists to Niagara Falls and other parts of that area. The average stay of a tourist in Niagara Falls is 40 minutes; the average stay in Marineland is five and a half hours. This has a major spinoff on the hotel and restaurant business because the park inspires people to stay overnight.

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Epp: A study done by the local tourist association in Niagara Falls in the late 1970s credits 43 per cent of the hotel rooms sold in Niagara Falls to the attraction of Marineland and its advertising.

Mr. Speaker: And now for the question.

Mr. Epp: Now for the question. How could the minister condone putting an innovative entrepreneur out of business who has built a dream without one penny of government assistance? Will he intervene to have this assessment reduced?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Waterloo North for that question. I was wondering when his question would come, in view of his travelling road show there.

Surely he is not serious when he suggests this government is putting Marineland out of business. He knows the history as well as I do. This assessment was requested by the city of Niagara Falls. The council finally approved the impact study, and at a council meeting it asked that market value assessment be brought into being. Through his studies and hearings, the member might also determine that although some assessments did increase, others went down. Perhaps the member should bring in both sides of the story.

In answer to the question—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Does the member want to hear the answer? I am taking it seriously. He is not taking it seriously.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Kerrio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I want to tell you that Vincent Kerrio Jr. voted against having market value assessment in Niagara Falls, and I also have to tell you, sir, it was because he was protecting what we consider the rights of many entrepreneurs in Niagara Falls.

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Kerrio: I wonder if the minister is aware that in addition to Marineland, where 80 permanent jobs and 400 seasonal jobs are going to be jeopardized—and Marineland is being enticed to go to the other side because the Americans are willing to provide land for its expansion, which is now being stalled.

The minister was kind enough to receive a delegation from Niagara. I hope he will hesitate to answer "No" too quickly, before he goes back

to cabinet and perhaps finds out he might get his colleagues to change their minds about this particular market value assessment.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Kerrio: In addition to Marineland we have E. S. Fox where the former Minister of Energy boasted about having work. We have Oneida Community Plate, Washington Mills, Niagara Block and many more businesses threatened by this increase in taxation.

Mr. Speaker: And having said that.

Mr. Kerrio: This is a very important issue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure it is, but would you please put the question.

Mr. Kerrio: This is the question. These people are going to be put out of business. I am sure they made an appeal to the minister that should have him go back and talk to his colleagues. I hope the minister might reconsider some kind of special involvement because many entrepreneurs are threatened—the people who made this country. Will the minister go to his cabinet colleagues and see if he can do something about this special issue in Niagara Falls?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, the member for Niagara Falls is quite correct in that I did entertain a delegation, including an acting mayor at that time. I have been in continuous touch with Mayor Smeaton of Niagara Falls; in fact, I am meeting with him next week.

The proper procedure for Marineland—and it has the right to do this—is to appeal its assessment to the Assessment Review Board. That is one thing it can do.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I wonder if the honourable member would like to hear the answer. He asked the question; he should listen for the answer.

An hon. member: He does not want to hear it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I guess perhaps that is it. He does not want to hear it.

The other alternative, which council in Niagara Falls has already dealt with, is the option of phasing in that assessment. They voted against that as well. I am just wondering—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Do not confuse me with facts; is that it?

I do not know what I can do at this point. I was very specific. The council has requested in three resolutions that this be done. They have the

option of appealing to the Assessment Review Board. They have the additional option in Niagara Falls of phasing in this assessment if that is what they wish. They have indicated a desire to do neither of those things.

The gentleman—I believe Mr. John Holer—from Marineland did have that opportunity to apply. I do not know whether he has appealed his assessment or not. I think the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) should be finding that out in his hearings.

Mr. Epp: On a point of privilege: The minister is well aware that this equipment is being assessed as buildings and not as equipment. He could change that category if he wished.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Oshawa with a final supplementary.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he would consider one of two options. One would be that, where there are obvious distortions in the process as in the case of Marineland, there would be some direct intervention by the minister himself to see that distortion is taken out of the market value assessment.

Failing that, would the minister provide a mechanism whereby a municipal council that did ask for market value assessment could change its position in subsequent years when it saw obvious distortions and unfairness created by market value assessment and have it removed?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I think we are now speaking about the Newcastle area. The history of that area is much the same as the Niagara Falls situation. I have met with delegations from Newcastle on the matter. I am always ready to talk to delegations if there are some suggestions they can make.

I do not know what else I can say to the member. I cannot give him any magic solution, apart from the same answer I gave the member for Waterloo North, that the council supported or presented this resolution and passed it on three occasions, including an occasion in front of 700 ratepayers, which the member will recall well. They have gone ahead and have not considered phasing.

I have to point out, notwithstanding that, the experience has been only about six per cent appeals, many of which are appealing assessments that went down. I wish the member could explain that to me.

CONTRACT WORKERS

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister knows

by now that 34 workers at Villa Colombo have been laid off one week earlier than expected. The minister knows the reason they were given for the layoff, because my leader asked a question two weeks ago. It was supposed to be to save money. The company that is getting the contract for the work is telling the public it will pay the workers the same amount of money.

3 p.m.

Does the minister not think that an institution such as Villa Colombo, which has been built by the Italian community, where the workers not only work but also do voluntary work and have, therefore, established a special relationship with the residents, should somehow be accountable? Also, in view of the fact they received public moneys from this government, should they not show the books and let us see why they are making such a cruel decision?

Does he not think that at this late hour he should meet with the board of directors and the workers and try to have the board of directors reverse this decision, which has been criticized by the majority of the people in the Italian community in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation that is being described by the honourable member. In fairness, though, I must respond to it in the same manner in which I responded to his leader's questions. The whole matter of contracting out in nursing homes is currently before the Ontario Labour Relations Board and will be dealt with by those procedures.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware that many of the 34 employees affected by this layoff or severance are women who are widows or single parents supporting children. I spoke with some of them on the informational picket line they had a couple of Saturdays ago and heard of their desperate need for employment at decent wages to support their families and to pay their rent and mortgages.

Will the minister consider the fact that this switch to contract labour, during the life of a contract particularly, will mean that many families affected will have to go on welfare, at increased cost to the government and maybe at no saving at all to Villa Colombo if they are going to pay them the same wages? Is he also aware that the mental and physical health of the residents will be affected because they have developed a relationship with these employees over the years and they consider this their retirement home?

In view of the serious effects of this kind of contracting out on both workers and residents, will the minister consider legislating a job

security clause during the life of a contract as part of the Labour Relations Act in order to protect workers from contracting out without notice?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the circumstances the honourable member has described in respect to Villa Colombo can be matched by various other nursing homes across this province, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto. I do not say this to try to lessen the impact of the circumstances; I just say that the same tragic circumstances that have been described have occurred elsewhere.

Again, my next comment is going to sound harsh, and it is not meant to be, but there are contracts between nursing homes and their unions where there is a noncontracting-out clause. This is something that can be addressed at the bargaining table in future negotiations. At the present time, as I said earlier, the matter is before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

TORONTO ISLANDS HOMES

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs pertaining to the situation involving the residents of the Toronto Islands. I know he has had the carriage of this matter for a number of years, but it may be he would like his colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) or one of the other ministers to answer.

Now that the Divisional Court has decided that Metropolitan Toronto has ownership of the structures, the houses themselves, in spite of the fact that residents of the islands have built the homes, maintained them and paid taxes on them these many years, is the minister considering an amendment to what was formerly Bill 191 that would provide for the safekeeping of the islanders against the kind of rents that would force them off the islands, an amendment to accomplish the aim established in the principle of that bill, which was intended to maintain the islanders for 25 years, and supported by the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, as I recall the principle of that particular bill, it was that the island community would be preserved and continued, at least until some time after the year 2000, for 25 years. There was another principle and that was that everybody should pay his way. In other words, there was some feeling that people were not contributing a reasonable rent for the properties or paying taxes, etc.

Mr. McClellan: Was this part of the original plan? Is that what the minister is saying?

Mr. Rae: Get up on a question of privilege, Larry. Come on, get up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I don't remember this, Larry.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Those two principles, not just one of them but both of them, were accepted by everyone in this House. They were that the community should be preserved and that people should pay reasonable rents there, and so forth.

About this particular situation which has now arisen, I think there are two things that must happen before any of us comment on it. We would like to read the Divisional Court decision and we would also like to see if anyone is going to appeal it.

Mr. Nixon: There are those who believe the minister and his colleagues more or less left this time bomb ticking in Bill 191. I have tried to convince those people who are interested that the minister and his colleagues were very sincere, which I believe, in their endeavours to protect them against the depredations of Metropolitan Toronto, particularly the chairman and his cohorts, who have it as their aim to sweep those people out of the island community.

If the minister would simply give his undertaking that, as far as he and his colleagues are concerned, they do not intend to allow the islanders to be forced out of their homes by unfair high rents and back rents which, undoubtedly, if charged at the level that has been threatened, would force them out, then I am sure they would be satisfied. Could the minister not give that undertaking on behalf of his colleagues, particularly the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) at this time?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The only assurance I can give my friend at this point is that we were very sincere in bringing forward the legislation. After a great deal of work and much discussion, we felt we had a piece of workable legislation that adhered to the two principles I just enunciated. I still believe that if people of goodwill on all sides will sit down, they can work out all those matters and sustain that community under the legislation this House passed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, in the notion of preservation of the community, will the minister not agree that we were talking about the community as people—not just the buildings but the people who are there—many of whom have paid a lot of money for those homes? Will he not assure us today, given that he has to read the

judgement, that at least he will be open to some kind of process which will protect those people's capacity to stay so they will not be gouged by the kinds of rates that are being talked about, which could force a number of them to leave even though they have invested a fair amount in those homes up to this point?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say anything more than that I will read the judgement and I will see if it is going to be appealed. If Metro and those people with whom they are dealing in the city of Toronto and others would sit down in good faith, I still believe this could all be worked out within the parameters of that bill.

NURSING HOME CARE

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. It concerns Willson Nursing Home in St. Thomas, something I have communicated with the minister about and have raised in the House before.

The minister must be aware that this home went into receivership in November 1982, that the licence has been turned back to the Ministry of Health and that the beds have now been given to Caressant Care.

Is the minister aware there are two major concerns? The first is that Caressant Care is not respecting the union contract which now exists and all the employees who have held this home together and maintained a satisfactory quality of care are losing their jobs when Caressant Care takes over.

Secondly, if the minister is not concerned about the workers, is he at least concerned about the residents of the nursing home who are not only going to have to move into a new nursing home, but are going to have to deal with all new staff, which will be very disruptive and very disorienting for many of the residents and will have a very negative effect on their lives?

Will the minister not agree that he should intervene to guarantee and protect these jobs and protect the quality of life for the residents of Willson Nursing Home?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would acknowledge I do have a responsibility to ensure the quality of care of the residents in any of the nursing homes that comes within the jurisdiction of the ministry and I would certainly take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that. I would not interpret my responsibility or mandate to extend to the area of issues relating specifically to labour relations since that clearly comes within the mandate of one of my colleagues, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay).

4:10 p.m.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Treleaven from the standing committee on procedural affairs presented its report on standing orders and procedures and moved its adoption.

Mr. Treleaven: As the members know, the procedural affairs committee is a consensus committee rather than a voting committee, and this report has been unanimously agreed upon. Certainly, every member of the committee did not get everything he wanted, but through compromise it was unanimously agreed upon. Might I also point out that this is the culmination of one year's work by the committee. I would urge the assembly to debate the report as soon as possible.

On motion by Mr. Treleaven, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Gillies from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr42, An Act respecting the city of Peterborough.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ACT

Mrs. Scrivener moved, seconded by Mr. Kerr, first reading of Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES ACT

Mr. Roy moved, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, first reading of Bill 46, An Act respecting French Language Services in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, this is the sixth or seventh time I have introduced this legislation. I find it interesting as I look at my colleague the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr.

Wells) and the minister in charge of French language services. He will recall that when this bill was originally introduced and debated, it was accepted by the House. Subsequently, the Premier (Mr. Davis) imposed a veto on the bill, saying such legislation would not be accepted by the House.

Ironically, slowly and surely the government is adopting the position I proposed in 1978. Just last week the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs proposed legislation to guarantee services in social services. His colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has just passed legislation guaranteeing services in the courts. We are making progress. In spite of the edict of the Premier in 1978, we are proceeding to adopt exactly what we proposed and had accepted in this House in 1978.

M. le Président, certainement vous voulez que je dise quelques mots en français sur cette législation-ci. Maintenant ça fait la sixième ou la septième fois que je présente la législation qui garantirait des services en français par voie de législation. Et même si en 1978, où l'Assemblée avait accepté d'une façon unanime cette législation-ci, le premier ministre (M. Davis) avait imposé, si vous vous le rappelez bien, son veto.

Et même depuis qu'il a imposé ce recul, ou cette confrontation, ou cet arrêt de ce genre de législation-là, ça n'a pas empêché de faire du progrès; et on voit que tranquillement et à petits pas, le premier ministre et le gouvernement, le ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales (M. Wells) et le Procureur général de l'Ontario (M. McMurtry) acceptent les grands principes de cette législation-ci. Et tranquillement on fait du progrès dans certaines législations, qui garantissent les services en français dans la province. On fait du progrès; on ne le fait pas assez vite, mais ça avance.

Je voudrais mentionner aussi qu'aujourd'hui j'ai présenté une résolution en même temps qui garantirait ou insérerait dans la Constitution les services en français qu'on a déjà présentement. Alors je suis convaincu qu'en faisant ses commentaires mon collègue le ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales sera parfaitement d'accord avec cette initiative.

TIME AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cassidy moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, first reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend the Time Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend daylight saving time by two

months per year so it would begin on the first Sunday in March and go until the first Sunday in November, whereas nowadays it begins on the last Sunday in April and goes to the last Sunday in October.

Since we have four months of daylight saving time after the summer equinox, after June 21, this bill would give us four months of daylight saving time before the summer equinox by adding the months of March and April. Thereby, it would make sunshine available to people in the province, which is particularly appropriate and needed, given the cold winters and the feelings people have as we come out of winter and wait for spring in the months of March and April.

3:20 p.m.

The proposal in this bill has gained wide support at the municipal level across Ontario in the past year. Ottawa-Carleton and the city of Stratford have all passed similar resolutions. When the city of Toronto and the city of North York canvassed opinion among municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario passed a motion last November endorsing a move to extend daylight saving time by two months a year as per the provisions of this bill.

The city of Toronto, the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the city of Stratford have all passed similar resolutions. When the city of Toronto and the city of North York canvassed opinion among municipalities and talked to all the municipalities in the province, they found that 80 to 90 per cent of the municipalities that responded favoured the extension of daylight saving time.

They favoured it, I believe, not just because of the savings in energy and hydro costs, although these are important factors, but also because of the improvement in the quality of life for us living here in this northern jurisdiction, where we do suffer from short days in the wintertime and even in the spring.

This bill would ensure social gains, including fewer traffic accidents, a higher quality of life and something approaching a half billion additional people-hours of sunlight every year for the people of Ontario.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Ms. Bryden, first reading of Bill 48, An Act to establish Midwifery as a Self-Governing Health Profession.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, it will be noted that the bill I introduced is a reintroduction of another

bill because there was a mistake in the first one. Therefore, I would move that Bill 31 in Orders and Notices be withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just before the orders of the day I would like to table the answers to questions 278, 279, 280 to 285 and 291, and the responses to petitions presented to the Legislature, sessional papers 60 and 66 [see Hansard for Friday, April 27].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS LIFELINE ACT

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time around for this legislation. It must be controversial and, if there is any heckling, we will not deal with the hecklers the same way as happened at—

Mr. Speaker: Before you start with your explanation, would you mind moving the bill?

Mr. Sargent: You want to do that again?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, please.

Mr. Sargent: You are wasting time. I have only got 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Your 20 minutes do not start until after the introduction.

Mr. Sargent moved second reading of Bill 32, An Act to provide for a Basic Residential Power Rate Applicable to the Essential Energy Needs of Residential Households in Ontario.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, if there are any hecklers here, we will not deal with them the same way as happened at a Tory meeting where the speaker was expounding about land and about things going on, and some hecklers in the first row kept saying: "We want more land. We want more land." So the speaker put his eye on some of his bouncers and they came forward and grabbed the hecklers. One guy held him and the other guy kicked him in the testicles. He said, "Here are a couple of 'achers' for you." We will not deal with them that way this time.

This bill is a legislated proposal to provide a low, fixed, fair price for the amount of electricity a family needs for basics such as lighting, refrigeration and electrical necessities. This amounts to about 500 kilowatts per month and should cost about two cents per kilowatt. A user

of 500 kilowatts would have a monthly bill of less than \$10.

This is good legislation, not only for every member in this House but also for his constituents. There is an old saying that nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come. In view of the inflationary trend of today's living, this bill is very timely. I cannot think of anyone who would not support it, except because of party lines.

This bill will not affect the average citizen, but it will help the poor, those on fixed incomes, the small home owners, the apartment dwellers and low power users, because they will get a real break.

Since 1971, when the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) took over as first minister, Ontario Hydro's budget has tripled and its long-term debt has gone up by 153 per cent. In the past six years Hydro's average rate to residential units has shot up by about 90 per cent, including this year's increase. It has almost doubled in six or seven years.

I understand the studies regarding rate increases are before the Ontario Energy Board, but now they are stalled and will always be dealt with in that fullness of time we hear about.

Across the province—an area about five times the size of the state of Texas and with a population of about eight million, including about two million families—at least one million families are having a rough time. Hundreds of thousands of our people, including senior citizens on fixed incomes, are subsidizing commerce and industry by paying higher rates for electricity, and they have been doing it since the time of Sir Adam Beck.

Sir Adam Beck first gave us hydro, which belonged to the people. He made Ontario Hydro Canada's most successful experience in socialism. He promised cheap electrical power. In 1910 he said we must deliver power to such an extent that the poorest working man will have electric lights in his home. We all know that Hydro has met that challenge magnificently. Its low rates and efficiency have been the envy of the world, but shortly before he died in 1925, Sir Adam Beck took one of his employees aside and said, "Remember what I am telling you: There is no cause to raise hydro rates, so watch what happens after I am gone."

Ontario has been watching what Hydro has been doing with varying degrees of horror and dismay. Now it has a budget that is one third that of the province and goes ahead with this seven

per cent annual growth in power supply with 40 per cent power surplus, or reserve capacity.

This great power system belongs to the people of Ontario and no one group has the right to say the rich and powerful should control the rates. Whether or not they do, the fact remains that up until this day the residential apartment owners, the small home owners and those on lower incomes have been subsidizing industry and business. This is a fact, as I will show in a few moments.

This bill, called the Lifeline Act, is before this House for the fourth time. I would like to see the members do something about it. The present policy in Ontario still encourages people to waste power. For example, a prominent sportscaster in his large Thornhill home has four television sets—including three colour sets—a dishwasher, two stereos, a heated pool, a washer, a dryer, power tools and total air conditioning. His monthly hydro bill is only \$32, because hydro rates are geared to give the big user a better deal.

In the city of Toronto, the first 50 kilowatt-hours cost 10.46 cents per kilowatt, 5.29 cents per kilowatt for the next 250 kilowatt-hours and 4.8 cents per kilowatt for the balance. In Owen Sound we pay six cents per kilowatt for the first 50 kilowatts and four cents per kilowatt thereafter. The old age pensioner does not use power for much more than boiling a kettle and making a little toast. He is subsidizing the people in air-conditioned mansions.

3:30 p.m.

Ontario Hydro rates jumped by 50 per cent in the last four years. That increase in cost to residential customers using 750 kilowatts runs about \$70 a year. The price of electricity is rising so dramatically it now threatens to price itself beyond the ability of many people to afford it. Because Hydro is locked into a \$25-billion program, the increases in power rates by 1990 are projected to add another \$300 to one's electricity bill.

The figures I have are current as of today. From 1971 to 1984 the total rate increase has been 338 per cent. The rate increase this year is proposed at 9.1 per cent. The average residential electrical use in Toronto is roughly 825 kilowatts per month or 4.7 cents per kilowatt. That is \$38 a month or \$456 a year. But the average charge to Ontario Hydro's major industrial customers is roughly 2.9 cents per kilowatt.

Balance this: If an Ontario householder who uses a small amount of power accidentally left on a 100-watt light bulb for a year, he would have to pay \$76 for that mistake. However, a large user

such as Stelco, Dofasco or Union Carbide would pay only \$22 for the same mistake. At a time when energy conservation is an urgent priority, it seems foolish to reward people for using more electricity. That is exactly what Ontario Hydro is doing through its antiquated declining block rate structure, which charges small users proportionately more than bigger users.

It is most important that we face this issue now. Lifeline is a proposal of rate reform to provide relief for low users of electricity. We are talking about poor people, whose use of electricity is lower than that of higher-income groups. Studies reveal that whereas 5.2 per cent of the income of a low-income person goes for power, only one per cent of the average earner's income goes for power.

Another group that has low energy use and would benefit from lifeline is the elderly. They, along with those on mother's allowance, are part of the larger group that is generally a low user of electric power, such as apartment dwellers, etc. Members of the government party, I suspect, will try to find some way to block this bill. They would not do it if every one of their constituents knew about it. Among his constituents, every member of this House has 2,000 or 3,000, or maybe thousands more, in the elderly group of people. What we are talking about is equity. Because of their smaller living quarters and the generally small family size, people in this group would benefit from lifeline.

In effect, a rate structure should act to reward, not penalize, low users. The result is that the larger users, who impose the greatest cost on this system, are now receiving these expensive kilowatt-hours at low, declining block rates from Hydro. Thus commerce and industry have been receiving a subsidy all these years at the expense of the low residential users.

I believe there is an urgent need, because of inflation, to reconsider our patterns of growth and consumption. It is no longer feasible to expect a utility rate structure that will charge small, low-income users seven cents per kilowatt-hour, large affluent users three cents per kilowatt-hour and an industrial user between one and two cents per kilowatt-hour.

A lifeline rate structure would seek to redress this situation. I will grant it is not the most perfect solution, but I think it is the best we can come up with at the present time. A number of US states are currently using this approach. Ohio adopted this system last month. It has been very popular in California and other markets.

Lifeline can help meet the immediate short-run needs of the consumers caught in the grip of spiralling price structure and offer a first step towards the development of a more equitable rate structure.

This will end inequity. The poorest spend proportionately more of their income on electricity than any other income group. Lifeline ends this inequity by causing large users to bear their fair share of the cost of generation and distribution of electricity. As far as conservation is concerned, this will encourage conservation. In other words, the less one uses the less one pays.

I submit, as an elected representative of the people of Ontario, it is the duty of those of us who sit here to establish a policy for the local hydro commissions.

Lifeline is a broad pricing issue on which this Legislature is empowered to provide proper guidelines to achieve more responsive and responsible rate-making policies.

I have got the wheels down, and I am coming in for a landing, but I want to say that objections notwithstanding—

Mr. Watson: Don't hit the tower.

Mr. Sargent: I am waiting with interest to hear what the opposition will have to say about this.

Mr. Robinson: You are the opposition; we are the government.

Mr. Sargent: I do not have the research facilities they have. This is my own research, so it is not the hottest in the world, but I know the system works in other places and it should work here.

The low-income householders and the fixed-income elderly householders in the members' ridings are dependent upon electricity to maintain health and home. When the price of electricity rises to a point where it begins to consume a big share of their income, the lifestyles of our people are threatened.

In the minute I have left I would like to say that the experts tell us human beings have been around for some 800 lifespans. In the first 650 lifespans, we lived in caves. There have been some recorded communications only in the last 70, we have had the printed page for only the last six lifespans and only in the last two have we had the electric motor, the electric light, the automobile and radio. In the last lifespan we have developed television, penicillin, jet planes, satellites, radar, heart pacemakers and artificial hearts, nuclear power, the computer, and that is a short list.

At a quick glance, our lives have seen the most remarkable progress, making McLuhan's global village a reality, at least in a technical sense. We are still having difficulties learning to live together in this global village, and overcoming these difficulties will be the challenge of the next lifespan, not this one. It would seem to me that a basic simple premise such as I am talking about is a must today.

3:40 p.m.

We have a key role in making this society work here, and I suggest this is good legislation. It guarantees an amount of electricity that can provide for the basics of life at a reasonable rate. Beyond that low rate, a signal is given in the form of a higher rate to all those desiring more electricity. If one wants to use more power, one must pay for it; the choice is yours. This will not affect the average citizen or the farmers a bit.

It is a concept designed to distribute energy to people in a fair manner. I do hope members will see their way clear to support this legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has three minutes and 46 seconds remaining of his time.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill, in principle at least. I think it deserves support by all sides of the House.

There is no question that there is a trend, certainly across North America, towards at least a flattening out of the rates regardless of consumption. In the situation in which we find ourselves today in this province, in this nation and across the world with regard to the need to conserve energy, it makes all kinds of sense that we take a look at the principles involved in the rate structure. I think it is possible that after this has been approved by the House and gets into committee, as I am sure it will, we may propose an amendment or two to this bill; but we are going to support it at this time.

This bill does two things, it seems to me. It ensures that residential consumers are not going to pay more than any other type of user of hydro; it ensures that a householder who uses only a small amount of electricity does not pay a much higher rate than those who use a lot of electricity, and that those small users of electricity will not pay more than the large commercial or industrial users.

Both of those disadvantages—the small consumer of hydro now paying substantially more than the large user, whether it be a residential user or a commercial or industrial user—are very much in evidence at the present time. In my home municipality of Thorold the customer pays 5.7 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 250 kilowatts

per month, and the remainder of the electricity the person uses costs 4.25 cents per kilowatt hour. In the city of Welland, the other municipality I represent in this Legislature, the first 250 kilowatts per month cost 6.3 cents per kilowatt-hour and the remainder are at 4.13 cents per kilowatt-hour.

In the case of Thorold, a small consumer pays in the neighbourhood of 40 per cent more than a large consumer; in the case of Welland he pays about 50 per cent more than a large residential consumer.

Rural hydro, of course, is much worse, and that is something over which Ontario Hydro has direct control.

Mr. Wildman: That is right. The government does not.

Mr. Swart: I am talking now about a rural rate, the highest of all, which of course most of the rural people pay. The first 250 kilowatt-hours per month are at 11.8 cents per kilowatt-hour and the balance over that is at 4.46 cents per kilowatt-hour; 2.5 times as much for the small consumer as for the large consumer of hydro.

Mr. Wildman: And the government could not persuade Hydro to change that.

Mr. Swart: By any measurement this shows a very real injustice in our society. What it means, of course, is that conservers pay more: you are being penalized for conserving energy. It means residents pay much more than industry, and of course we all know the rural customer pays 15 per cent more in any event—Hydro calculates it that way—than the urban consumer of electricity. So there is no question of a tremendous injustice in the present rate system in this province.

We need this bill, too, because there is no control at the present time over what the consumer pays. There is no really effective control at all. When it comes to the bottom line, Ontario Hydro is autonomous in setting its rates. Any control by the Ontario Energy Board has become almost a joke. When there is a hearing, the Ontario Energy Board can only recommend; it cannot make the decision. It is normal that nobody is there representing the residential consumer. The major power consumers have some people there at the hearings; the municipalities and organizations have people there at the hearings; but the consumer who pays the bill has nobody there to represent him.

If we had a public advocate in this province, as they have in most cases in the United States, the consumer would be getting a better break. But the government of this province does not believe in that kind of fairness. So the Ontario Energy

Board sits and hears all the information and arguments put forward by Ontario Hydro but does not hear the other side of the question, the consumer's side of the question, at all. That is probably one of the reasons the residential consumer's rate at the present time is so high—because the Ontario Energy Board simply has not heard the consumer's side of the story.

I have already mentioned that the Ontario Energy Board, in any event, does not make the final decision. Ontario Hydro can do as it likes in the end. On two occasions recently, it has just simply rejected what the Ontario Energy Board recommended. In 1983, for the 1984 rates, Ontario Hydro asked for a 9.7 per cent increase. The Ontario Energy Board said, "All you need is a 6.3 per cent increase," and they charged 7.8 per cent in any event. They instituted that kind of an increase.

What followed the 1981 hearing for the 1982 rates was even more bizarre. Ontario Hydro asked for an increase of 8.6 per cent. The Ontario Energy Board said, "You need only a 6.5 per cent increase." After that, Ontario Hydro implemented a 9.6 per cent increase—more than it had asked for in the first place.

We need this kind of bill to legislatively put some reins on Ontario Hydro so that it does not gouge the small residential customer of hydro. We need this kind of legislation because of the irresponsible capital expansion of Ontario Hydro, which will continue. Hydro seems to be still bound and bent to go ahead so that by 1992 it will have built enough nuclear reactors to have a debt of something like \$40 billion. Even though every other electrical jurisdiction—and this has been said in this House over and over again by my leader and others—has decided nuclear is an uneconomical way of producing electricity, here in Ontario we still barge ahead.

If we put through this kind of bill, it will mean the consumption of hydro will either lessen or will increase at such a slow rate that probably even this government will not try to justify all that tremendous expansion of nuclear generators in this province.

I have to say here, because it is true, there is nobody in this House or in this province who has had a better handle on the needs and the follies of the government's plan with regard to Ontario Hydro than Don MacDonald. He warned years ago that we are overbuilding. The older members of this House will remember this. He said, "You are not going to need that." Now we find Ontario Hydro, through the "talking" furnace and all kinds of other ways, is trying to sell hydro, and

through the rate structure we have at present it is trying to encourage more use of hydro, because it expanded and has 40 or 45 per cent overcapacity at the present time.

3:50 p.m.

Now they are saying to the people of this province, "You are going to have to pay for that in the rates." Worst of all, they are saying to the small consumer of hydro: "You are the one who is going to have to pay the highest share of that, the biggest percentage of it. You are going to have the highest rate of all. You, a citizen who has decided to conserve energy, to be a good citizen, are now going to pay that high price."

I hope this bill goes through. I suggest to the government members to take a good look at this bill. It will come to committee. The members do not like all parts of it, but the principle is sound and let us pass this bill.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to make a few comments on the Lifeline Act, the subject of which has been under discussion for a number of years.

I have a personal recollection of a predecessor to this bill because I was sworn in as a member of this Legislature on October 31, 1978. I heard a lot about the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) and on November 9 had the opportunity to listen to that bill and the comments he reread so well today from that date. I know we have a standing order that says a member cannot come in with the same thing in the same session, but I guess we do not have one that says one cannot do it two or three sessions after.

I appreciated those comments and remember them, even down to the folder that was distributed at that time. I notice he has the same folder he distributed then. I suggest a few things have changed, but I realize the member does bring it forward in good faith and I commend him for doing so because he believes in the cause. He is actually a little more socialist in this cause than in things he is usually noted for, but it is a cause for socialism.

I do have some difficulties with the legislation the member is introducing. It takes a shotgun approach to a problem that should be aimed at a specific segment of the population, as the member said: the low-income family. It appears to me the high-income earner with low electricity consumption would also benefit from this legislation.

The first difficulty I have is the question of the need for this type of legislation in Ontario because of the electricity costs here. I can understand the need for assistance in New York

City where the electrical bill for the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours used in a month is C\$176, or in Boston where it is C\$134, or in Los Angeles where it is C\$83, but in Ontario the average municipal residential bill as of January 1 this year was \$47. This average electrical bill is among the lowest in North America.

I would also like to point out this type of special rate was suggested in periods of spiralling electrical prices. The member would be interested to know the price of electricity in Ontario really has not risen, when inflation is taken into account, since he last introduced this legislation. The prices of crude oil and natural gas, however, have increased in real terms by 51 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

For his legislation, the member could have picked another product or service such as oil, which has increased over the past few years at a much faster pace than inflation and where the low-income earner has really suffered. I would point out that I would not put the cost of electricity in that class.

Even if we were to assume there is a need, is this the proper vehicle for income redistribution, in particular in Ontario?

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I say it kindly, but what the hell is the comparison between oil and electricity? There is no balance there at all. When one wants to get the lights, one does not turn on the oil burner. If one wants the toaster to work, one does not turn on the oil burner.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): That is not a point of order.

Mr. Watson: Interesting, but apparently not a point of order.

We have in Ontario a power-at-cost philosophy, and should we mix power at cost with social price-making or rate-making? I have my doubts. The Ontario Energy Board rejected this type of rate structure for use in Ontario after two years of public hearings. The member referred to the fact it was going on. For the benefit of the House, I remind him that study has been completed since he last presented the information.

While it is interesting to note that none of the many participants at the hearings actually advocated the lifeline rates, the question of subsidized energy use was looked at as an option for pricing electricity.

The Ontario Hydro study team that looked into this type of rate structure found that other forms of redistributing income, such as energy stamps or tax credits, appeared to be better for meeting

the social welfare goals than a lifeline electricity rate.

Mr. Kerrio: When did it put those into effect?

Mr. Watson: They are not in effect. It is what the Ontario Energy Board recommended.

These types of assistance help low-income householders with the bills of other energy forms which, in most cases, are larger than electrical bills due to space heating requirements.

The study team also found that lifeline rates are not consistent with cost-based rates. Cost-based rates, as I understand it, have been used for many years in Ontario and are designed to recover the costs incurred by each class of service without subsidy to any other class. The lifeline rate as proposed bears no resemblance to cost-based rates because lifeline rates are set below the cost of service for basic amounts of electricity, and other classes of customers would have to pay the freight for the home owner, whether of high or low income. An industrial plant or a store, for example, may, as a result of increased prices, increase the cost of living to the low-income family.

Cost-based rates are also designed to charge each customer the cost he or she has incurred no matter what the electricity use is. The variable costs for electricity generation, and the transmission and associated costs, are currently billed at a single rate for any consumption. The first higher step in the rate structure is included to pick up specific fixed costs of metering, billing, collecting and other costs that every customer causes a utility no matter what the electricity use is. Again, the lower-use customer, whether of high or low income, would be subsidized by the higher-use customer.

In its deliberations, the Ontario Energy Board had real difficulties with the lifeline rates, as I do, and after careful examination the board came to these conclusions:

"Income redistribution programs were not appropriate rate-designed goals, but were the function of government through social measures such as taxation, welfare assistance or business grants and loans.

Electricity rates should be based on a fair allocation of costs consistent with the objectives of fairness set out by the board, broadly defined as equal treatment of equals based on cost-tracking.

An increase in the rate levels resulting from rate structure changes will undoubtedly result in some hardship for individual customers, but it would be imprudent to depart from a rate-making process based on the cost of supplying power and

plunge into the maze of value judgements that underlie "perceived equity."

The board therefore recommended, "That rates not based on the cost of supplying power be rejected by Ontario Hydro and municipal utilities."

I have some other concerns concerning this specific legislation. For instance, what about the rural retail customers serviced directly by Ontario Hydro? Those customers, as I read the legislation, seem to be left out. Only the municipal utilities are mentioned. There happen to be about 550,000 residential and farm customers across rural Ontario who would not benefit from these rates. Are there no low-income or elderly people in this segment of our population? I think there are.

Finally, how do we calculate this rate? I wanted to get some idea of how these rates would compare to those charged to customers today. As to the residential rates for 1974 and 1984 for Owen Sound, for instance, which is a municipality in the member's riding, given the rate structure, there are at least three different ways I can see to calculate the rate for the basic user, and each will come up with significantly different results.

4 p.m.

Given the Ontario Energy Board recommendations and the difficulties I have commented on arising from this bill, I think there are more efficient ways of bringing relief from the cost of energy to those with low and fixed incomes. I do not think we should mix social assistance, as this bill attempts to do, with the power-at-cost philosophy that has been in Ontario over the years and was confirmed recently by the Ontario Energy Board.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member and I recognize now with pleasure the member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Kerrio: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is very kind of you.

The story of Ontario Hydro has its very beginnings at Niagara Falls. The story of Beck, H. G. Acres and some of the famous names in electricity conjure up the visions of that huge project that lit the lights across Ontario.

I was given some documents that go way back to its inception. The private sector actually started the development at Niagara. The original agreement was made by Colonel Albert D. Shaw and others, and it was afterwards incorporated as the Canadian Niagara Power Co. on April 7, 1892. It granted the company an exclusive licence to take water from the Niagara River

above the falls for the development of power, such licence to be for 20 years with renewal for four 20-year periods, or 100 years in all.

From that start by a group of people who got together and were going to develop this as a private enterprise after the turn of the century and the start of developing hydro, Sir Adam Beck came on the scene. To his credit and to the credit of some others from what was then Berlin, now Kitchener, we began to develop power mainly to send to the city of Toronto. That is generally what the first hydraulic power was all about.

It may seem that I am digressing for a moment, but I will fit this into the picture of my friend's lifeline presentation today. In the very first instance when they built huge hydraulic plants and began to distribute power across this great province of ours, people were encouraged to use electrical power, and for a very good reason. After those huge works were put in place, Hydro began to say: "Hydro is yours. Use it."

That particular philosophy at that time was most valid because, after the installation was made, that huge volume of water—some 200,000 cubic feet per second that float over this great falls—was going to be put to work for the people of Ontario. When someone turned on another light, started another motor or did whatever one did in those days to use electricity, all it meant was that the gates opened slightly more and that great fuel the good Lord Himself had provided kept the wheels turning.

So we can see that it did not cost one more penny when we used more power. The rates were structured at that time, not much after the turn of the century, and they were encouraging people to use that great potential at Niagara, as they continued to do for a good number of years until the economy expanded to the point where we supposedly had to go to other options. In fact, we did not have to go to those other options to the degree we have or as early as we did.

Had good management prevailed at Ontario Hydro, as it did in that first instance with the hydraulic generation at Niagara, we would have begun to use load management, the conservation theory and many other ways to conserve our electrical generation; we would have put installations wherever possible across the province. Having done that, we might then have gone to thermal and nuclear.

On that basis, the point I am trying to make is that now when we demand more power from the system, we have to put on more fuel. The rate structure has not changed since the very earliest development of hydraulic power.

The member suggested we were wrong in talking about helping people with low or fixed incomes in this fashion. He is forgetting Ontario Hydro is an investment, supposedly on behalf of the people of Ontario—the users. It is one of the great social benefits for the people. Ontario Hydro itself, in expounding the virtues of hydro and this huge monster it has built, even suggested it should participate in job creation. It has begun to perform functions that more appropriately should have been performed here in the Legislature. It has decided it should participate by helping certain areas, without being asked to do so.

At this point, putting forward a lifeline bill which would give the small and fixed-income users a special rate might also encourage people to conserve electricity. We would then be moving in the direction in which we should be moving in this modern society.

Government members get up and make foolish comparisons with the price of electricity in New York. Electricity at the top of Kilimanjaro would probably be 50 times as high, but I do not think that is any kind of comparison. They neglect to compare Ontario's electricity prices to those in Quebec, British Columbia or some of our sister provinces where prices are lower. They continuously boast about how great the price of power is in Ontario by comparing it to other jurisdictions.

I do not understand what that is all about except for political expediency. If I were sitting on those benches, I suppose I would be enticed to use those same arguments. I may not, but I would think I would be prone to do so from time to time if the opposition members got up and put forward something that made a lot of sense.

I really hope members on the other side will support this bill. I am sure we will not take half-page ads and spend \$20 million to \$30 million to tell the people of Ontario that the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) put forward a bill which would enable the low users to be able to afford a little bit of electricity—somewhere in the numbers he has described here—in the 500-to-750-kilowatt-hour range.

I would think all members on this side would allow the government to take full credit—except for a little assist from opposition members—for doing something really worth while with Ontario Hydro, which has done little else but build a huge empire for those people in the Hydro building.

Other matters should be brought into focus here. To justify what we are talking about, I do not think it would cost the other users a thing to

help the small user. I do not think the people who heat and air condition their homes, heat their swimming pools—those who could be more economical—would object if we were to help the fixed-income people at the other end by giving them what the member for Grey-Bruce has described as a lifeline quantity of electricity.

In its rate structure Ontario Hydro would be well advised to fire its 120 public relations people who are trying to justify everything it is doing and to take that money and supplement those people who could use that small amount of power. Ontario Hydro has that number of people putting ads in the paper and speaking at conferences to justify what it is doing.

4:10 p.m.

If it were running an economical, well-managed corporation, it would not need 120 public relations people and all kinds of advertising to convince the citizens of Ontario it is doing a good job. I think Bell Canada has eight or 10 people. Other large corporations do not nearly approach the number of people out there that Ontario Hydro has expounding on its own virtues. If Hydro were to take those people and give them more meaningful jobs, put them to work and at this juncture help those people on fixed and low incomes who should be helped with the lifeline idea of the member for Grey-Bruce, I am sure the good thinkers in this Legislature would support this bill 100 per cent.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support the concept put forward by the member for Grey-Bruce. I noted with interest other members were somewhat critical that he had used the same words to support the same concept as he did last time. I find that a little strange. I always thought if there is a fault in the Liberal Party it is its inconsistency from time to time. When one finds someone being as consistent as the member for Grey-Bruce, he stands out like a rose in a manure pile. He should be lauded for his consistency and persistence in trying to take a relatively simple concept and ram it down the throats of the government members.

They should not have any great problem with this. He is a singular person who has on his mind a concept that is straightforward and simple enough even for most of the government members to understand, but they refuse to do so. They should be criticized for abusing it. That is not fair. The member for Grey-Bruce is a straightforward kind of guy. He has put forward a straightforward idea. I do not see why they are dilly-dallying around the edges of this. They should say yes or no.

What he has proposed in this legislation is probably an idea that does offend government members somewhat because they seem to have adopted a policy of making the poor pay. I do not know how they got to this position. I suppose some of them are old Marxist-Leninists and have forgotten how the slogan goes. He is simply saying, "Why does the government not attempt to give the poor a break?" Unfortunately, the poor and the working poor are growing in numbers. It seems quite logical to take that wonderful organization called Ontario Hydro and use it as a vehicle to provide some small measure of assistance.

We are not talking about a \$12-billion program as we are with Darlington where Hydro is committed to a rather fantastic nuclear project. We are talking about something much more modest than that. We are talking about giving people at the bottom end of the economic scale the use of a supposedly publicly owned and controlled facility such as Hydro and providing them with electricity in their homes at reasonable rates. On the face of it, that is perhaps too straightforward an argument, but that is precisely what the bill proposes. It makes it eminently supportable.

I listened to some of the previous speakers say the Ontario Energy Board and others consider this concept to be a redistribution of income. That is malarkey, quite frankly. The members on the government side do not do anything about redistributing income except perhaps the large work they do with the Ontario Lottery Corp. There they tax the poor to make the rich even wealthier. That is a disgusting approach to take.

This is not a bill to redistribute income, not by a long shot. It is simply a measure that asks, "Would it not be a sensible thing to take a publicly owned corporation and have it provide electricity to the poor and working poor of this province at reasonable rates?" That is a fairly logical thing for an agency such as Hydro to do. Hydro could surely stand a very nice, neat, clean and simple public relations program such as this. That would stand it in good stead.

In my area and many others in the province, Hydro is having a bit of difficulty these days justifying its expenditures and its building of plants that keep breaking down, justifying how it cannot get its act together so that a project such as Darlington goes from \$4 billion to \$12 billion, justifying how it has such great difficulty in setting up a construction schedule.

Hydro ought to be on its knees looking for ideas such as the lifeline idea. It could scrap a few

of its television advertisements if it decided to provide a service at reasonable rates to people who need that kind of help. Quite the contrary, the Ontario Energy Board in its deliberations went into this long gobbledegook argument about cost-related provision of services. Those of us who have watched how Hydro functions know that it has nothing to do with cost relations. That is the last thing on its mind.

As a matter of fact, when it provides energy to large consumers, large corporations that use a lot of electricity, the keynote seems to be, "How do we get those who need our help the least the cheapest rates?" The latest routine they are into in my area is that Ontario Hydro is going to help the world's largest, most successful corporation get its hydro at cheaper rates. I am sure General Motors appreciates the fact that Hydro is helping it get electricity cheaper. In a year when General Motors is probably going to finish up with at least a 50 to 60 per cent increase in corporate profits, I am sure it understands the value of getting the electricity into its production facilities cheaper this year than last year.

They know how to do that, and I am sure they appreciate the government's help over there, but I know this much, too, that they do not need the help, they really do not. Yet the poor of this province who really do need help are not even getting a look.

What is sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. If this government can find ways and means of providing a reduction in electrical rates to the world's most powerful corporation, why can it not accept this simple concept for others? Is that too much to ask? Is that an unreasonable request to make? I think not.

I do not know why it is when it gets to the bottom end of the economic order, all of a sudden Hydro gets very aware of cost-related provision of services, while at the upper end of the scale it does not give a damn about it. They are quite happy to entertain ideas from big users of electricity on how to get their rates down. They are quite happy to entertain concepts from General Motors of Canada on how to get their costs down. Why are they not equally happy to listen to the poor and the working poor who need a little bit of help with their electrical rates as well? Is that such a difficult concept to get through? Is that such a mind-boggling program? I think not.

The member for Grey-Bruce has once again put in front of the Legislature a straightforward notion that would do somebody some good, and it is beyond me why the bill has met with such

really confused arguments about income redistribution and cost-related provision of services in other jurisdictions and how they charge for it.

I am interested in how California does this, how Ohio does it and how Maine does it, but I thought in this Legislature we were destined to talk about how Ontario functions and how Ontario Hydro functions. It seems to me our prime concern ought to be how a corporation which has a mysterious relationship with this government, but none the less a relationship, provides its electricity and how it charges for its rates.

It seems to me the member for Grey-Bruce is on the money. He has identified an area where we could do something that would help some people. Once again I keep hearing arguments from the government side of the House that they do not want to do it. I do not know why that is. Maybe they cannot cut ribbons around this kind of stuff, I do not know. Maybe they would have to put a trillium on the lifeline.

Maybe the member did not spend enough money on his little brochure where he attempted to explain it. I know he did not spend \$25 million advertising the program, but that does not make it bad. I know it is a relatively straightforward idea most of us can understand, but that does not make it bad. It does not always have to be that complicated a piece of business.

We do not always have to take a public opinion poll to tell us what to do. We do not always have to do marketing. We do not always have to do all the advertising to convince people out there that this is a great place to live and grow, to preserve and conserve things. It seems to me this is a concept that is worth considering.

I want to get to a couple of other things which bother me just a bit. At this hour on Thursday afternoons, this is precisely the kind of concept private members' time is designed for: a straightforward piece of business, not too complicated, something that is well within our jurisdiction, something that provides the members here with a nonpartisan occasion, an attempt to do some good for some people.

4:20 p.m.

I know on previous occasions members have threatened to block this kind of legislation, to say it is outside our jurisdiction, that private members should not take this kind of initiative. I would put to the government members who will be around, I hope, for a vote later this afternoon that this is an opportunity they ought to seize.

Hydro is really getting kicked around the block, and quite rightly, for its performance

record. It needs a little boost to its image. Second, the poor and the working poor of this province could use a little help and this bill will do it. Third, it seems to me we are long overdue for an occasion when private members' hour is used productively, when a member proposes a unique idea such as this one which will help some of our citizens and which involves some of the workings of this government.

I ask all members on both sides to look at this idea on its merits. If they do that, they will join me in supporting the member for Grey-Bruce and vote for the lifeline legislation.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, I am always interested in any new proposal to further this government's objectives of fairness and equity for all Ontario citizens. I believe that was the honourable member's motivation in reintroducing his bill on lifeline power rates. For that reason, I feel he should be commended. However—

Mr. Breaugh: But.

Mr. Barlow: Here it comes.

However, some of the assumptions this bill is founded on are questionable at best. At issue is the premise that lifeline rates will benefit low-income earners while increasing amounts charged to higher-income earners. The lifeline rate concept, which originated in the United States, assumes that low-energy users are low-income earners and vice versa. Studies in both the United States and Ontario cast doubt on the validity of this assumption.

To illustrate my point, let me draw on the experience of some of our southern neighbours. In certain states, such as California, lifeline rates have been implemented. Other states have given serious consideration to the implementation of such rate schemes. However, it is notable that no North American jurisdiction has introduced any lifeline rate since 1976. Most recently, a 1982 Utah study showed that while 90 per cent of those families with incomes of less than \$10,000 a year would benefit from lifeline rates, about one third of the higher-income customers would also benefit.

More important, two econometric studies in Oregon and South Carolina found income to be one of the least important factors in determining electricity consumption. Factors such as average family size, type of family dwelling and the nature of the heating system used were all far more important in determining electricity consumption than income level.

A regression using 1974 data from Ontario residential customers reveals a similar pattern. It

showed that income is not very significant compared with variables such as the type of residence and whether they have freezers, dishwashers, clothes dryers and all other modern conveniences.

Another regression using Ontario data from 1975 and 1976 indicated that of households consuming more than 12,000 kilowatt-hours per year, 13.4 per cent earned less than \$6,000 per year. This clearly suggests not all low-income customers are low-energy consumers and thus they would not benefit from lifeline power rates.

With today's energy-saving technology, this will become even more evident. Devices such as microwave ovens are designed to save electricity. However, their high purchase price puts them out of the reach of most average- and low-income families. This means high-income families that can afford microwave ovens will decrease their energy consumption and, accordingly, gain from the lifeline power rates.

Average families would be penalized, because they have to use more electricity to run their conventional ovens. Such schemes could well be called Robin Hood in reverse, taking from the poor and giving to the rich, unlike what I think is the intention this bill is designed for.

Farmers are another important group that would be unduly penalized by lifeline rates which increase the price of electricity as consumption increases. While farming families are among the lowest earners in this province—I do not think that will be questioned—their occupation or livelihood puts them among the highest electricity consumers in the province.

Obviously, as the representative for a major farming community around Cambridge, I am very concerned about the negative effect Bill 32 would have on the income of farmers. Unquestionably, the provision in the legislation would lower the incomes of a group whose members are already among the lowest earners in Ontario.

My position is further supported by a Tennessee Valley Authority study completed in 1977. Its results indicated that a hypothetical lifeline rate would have produced higher electricity bills for 26 per cent of low-income consumers and reduced bills for 49 per cent of the high-income consumers. With due respect to the member for Grey-Bruce, I submit this is not the intention of his bill.

I have further reservations about the legislation currently before us. The administrative problems that would arise from the provisions of Bill 32 would put even the most competent administrator in a horrendous quandary. There

would be significant difficulties in determining what constitutes a basic amount of electricity under the proposed amendment to clause 37(a) of the Ontario Energy Board Act. It would be an arduous process for the Ontario Energy Board to determine a basic requirement for electricity in a way that is both simple to define and to bill and fair to the customer, whose requirements may vary because of such factors as family size and type of residence.

Furthermore, the review process required by this same amendment would be an administrative nightmare. For instance, public hearings would be required on the definition of essential functions and rates for 320 individual utilities, which would have to be set and ruled on by the Ontario Energy Board.

I should comment on one of the items addressed in the member's brochure. The question asked is, "Who would pay the cost of the lifeline?" The answer says, "Studies show that the residential customer class have been subsidizing commercial/industrial users."

In checking with Ontario Hydro, I understand that in setting their rate structure, the levels Ontario and the municipal utilities follow are a number of rate-setting objectives. The main one is that the rates should be based on the fair cost of service to supply these customers. Therefore, to the extent practicable, the difference in rates charged various customer classes is attributable to differences in the supply costs. So it would not offset the way the member visualizes it.

There is nothing in the bill to ensure that low-income earners would definitely benefit from lower power rates. Moreover, there is no substantial evidence to show that the lifeline rates are an effective and desirable means of achieving social equity. Therefore, I suggest that lifeline rates, an idea the member for Grey-Bruce previously referred to as the brightest concept to emerge from the energy crisis, is now a light that is gradually burning out.

For these reasons, I cannot support this proposed legislation.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, the light will be burning out in a lot of things unless we get some heart over there on the part of the government, and I say that very sincerely.

The member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) said no lifeline states had been added since 1978. Ohio came on stream two weeks ago; they introduced the lifeline legislation and passed it in the Ohio Legislature. There are other very successful states I could name. Every one of us

here has 2,000 or 3,000 people in our ridings who will be affected by this, and I think that is very important to all of us.

The member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) stated that his party suddenly is greatly concerned that this will not help agriculture. I did not know the government had concern for the farmers, but if it does and if its members like this legislation, it could put amendments to this bill on behalf of the farmers by some tailoring of the concept.

The most important thing to realize is that the average residential customer is paying about \$38 a month or \$465 a year while industrial users in Ontario today are paying 2.9 cents. A case in point: A low power user who accidentally left on a light bulb for one year would have to pay \$76 for that mistake, but Dofasco would have to pay only \$22. The small guy is paying four times what Stelco and Dofasco are paying. It is unconscionable that the honourable member would defend that.

There is one other point. In Toronto, for example, it costs \$10.46 for the first 50 kilowatt-hours. The billing for large corporations is about 4.84 cents on average. The residential rate is double the industrial rate.

In closing, I want to thank you for the debate, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breough), the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) and the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) for their very intelligent input into a very important subject.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. R. F. Johnston, resolution 12:

That this House recognizes that some 1.5 million jobless constitute a serious moral as well as an economic crisis and hereby endorses the economic and social reform program proposed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document entitled *Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis*.

Further, this House urges the government of Ontario and the government of Canada to proceed immediately with legislative and policy enactments which will implement the five specific short-term strategies outlined in the document, namely:

1. Unemployment rather than inflation should be recognized as the number one problem to be tackled in overcoming the present crisis;

2. An industrial strategy should be developed to create permanent and meaningful jobs for people in local communities;

3. A more balanced and equitable program should be developed for reducing and stemming the rate of inflation, shifting the burden of economic restraint to upper-income earners and increasing taxation on investment income and corporations;

4. Greater emphasis should be given to the goal of social responsibility in the current recession, ending cutbacks in social services, maintaining adequate health care and social security benefits, and above all, guaranteeing special assistance for the unemployed, welfare recipients, the working poor and one-industry towns suffering from plant shutdowns; and

5. Labour unions should be asked to play a more decisive and responsible role in developing strategies for economic recovery and employment. This requires, among other things, immediate steps to redress the historic exclusion of labour from an ongoing role in effective industrial decision-making and ownership in the work place.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve four or five minutes at the end for commentary and rebuttal, should I have that amount of time left at the end of my remarks. You will be able to judge that quite readily by the clock.

It is very important that this Legislature have the opportunity to discuss so notable a statement on the economy and the ethical questions that relate to it as was delivered to this nation early last year by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops have drawn us back to fundamental questions by focusing debate over the economy on whom the system serves, both in terms of who gets the product and how the work is accomplished. They make two ringing affirmations which they couch in the phrases "preferential option for the poor" and "priority of labour."

In the course of my remarks I am not going to address equally all the strategies outlined in the motion. There are a number of speakers in this debate, and they will be contributing their own remarks, their own wisdom, their own evaluation to that strategy overall and to the items listed there and which the bishops recommend to us.

However, I will be primarily addressing the fifth item with regard to the place of labour in the work place and in any economic decision-making in our economy. The member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) will address the problem of poor social security benefits and what have you as part of that strategy. My colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breough) will be addressing the process

question: the significance of the debate over an issue like this, how we get into it and how we should carry it. I hope others will address, in their own ways, the other strategies as they feel moved to do.

These central themes of the bishops' statement, a preferential option for the poor and the priority of labour, are the keys to their concept of a viable economy geared to and motivated by human need on the one hand and organized according to an appreciation of the significance of human work on the other. They are fundamental to and pervade all the other recommendations and proposals in that statement, and therefore they have drawn the bulk of the commentary that the statement has had in the public domain.

The statement, I remind members, has been endorsed by all the major denominations in Canada, such as the United, Baptist, Presbyterian and Anglican churches. It also reflects a long-standing tradition of social criticism in this country which, while it has been a subdominant theme, none the less is one that bears reflection, especially in times of crisis like ours, and which provides an alternative style of organization of the life and labour of this country.

Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis, as produced by the Catholic bishops in question, was not an unprecedented document from them. Much of the press comment was to the effect that this was unprecedented, a new statement, something of the order that we have not heard before with regard to the relationship of religion and economic issues in Canada.

However, their Labour Day statement of 1975, entitled *A Northern Development—At What Cost?* which began a cry for justice that rings out today for native peoples and which addressed the whole problem of energy demands placed upon the north and upon native societies, led the bishops back into an examination of the nature of the industrial society and its voracious demands.

From that point, a series of statements moved towards the document I am referring to. There was *From Words to Action*, in 1976. There was *A Society to be Transformed*, in 1977. There was *Unemployment: The Human Costs*, in 1980. Those documents together carry all the freight, all the burden and all the remarks that are contained in the *Ethical Reflections* document.

It is not, therefore, a hastily conceived document in response to a temporary employment crisis of 1982. Nor, I hasten to say, is the document, or that series of statements by the

Catholic bishops, a document or documents that stand alone in the history of Canadian Christian criticism of the economic and social order.

4:40 p.m.

My mind carries me back to 1918, in the wake of the First World War, when the Methodist Church declared that nothing less than a complete transference of the whole economic life from the basis of competition and profits to one of co-operation and service was laid upon the country as the objective of economic developments from that point on. The church had not only a fairly comprehensive social program but also a structure of economic organization to propose at that time.

In 1933, the Montreal Jesuits charged that capitalism treated work and workers as commodities and led to undue wealth in the hands of the few. They went on to say that neither physical nor social nor spiritual needs could be met by a system of production that set producers against producers and owners against workers.

Almost decade by decade, one can move through Canadian history over the last century and a half to find statements as notable as these and of the same order. I am reminded of the Presbyterian merchant in Hamilton, Isaac Buchanan, who was the originator of the idea of the preferential tariff system in Canada at the time of the 1858-59 depression. He urged that the commercial stagnation of the time was due to the high priority given to rich men's property—namely money, capital and interest rates—and the low priority given to poor men's property, namely labour and wages.

Buchanan's comment, 130 years later, seems a reasonably perceptive if somewhat simple observation on our present discontents and the way in which we have addressed ourselves to the problems of unemployment, inflation and the distress in our economy in the last two or three years.

When Moses Coady, the greatest maritime Catholic of all, organized his fishermen's co-operatives in the 1920s and 1930s, he stated the bishops' point when he declared the greatest challenge of our time was to overcome the fundamental error of capitalism in separating men and women from the control of their own work.

The post Second World War prosperity papered over but did not solve that basic problem. Nor did the subsequent years really readdress the distribution of wealth in Canada. For example, when I saw a recent graph in the *Toronto Star* which detailed the income levels of

various sectors of Toronto, I was reminded just how variable wealth is in this city. Some parts of this city have residents with average incomes four times the level of some other parts. This surely has to be a matter that gives us great concern, as it did the bishops.

In a time of economic dislocation, when the central issues are raised once more of the place of work and wealth in our economy and in our society, it is important to attend to what the bishops are saying, as the latest exponents of a long tradition in Canadian history which views the problem of labour as central to the issue of the economy and the issue of justice.

The statement aroused a good deal of comment, and not least of all a fair bit of criticism. For example, we read headlines to the effect that "Trudeau Rejects Bishops' Criticism," "Bishops Rebuked by MPs" and "Bishops Not Correct, Business Leader Says."

On the other hand, we read thoughtful articles by people such as Michael Valpy in the *Globe and Mail* and comments, for example, by Michael Pitfield. Speaking in London, at the University of Western Ontario, he said labour relations has never been as high a priority in our country as one might expect. To this day, one wonders if organized labour is accepted as a meaningful player or simply seen as an unavoidable impediment.

In fairness, it must be said the bishops did not intend to outline in detail an alternative economic system. Their concern was to initiate—indeed, to renew—a dialogue around some very central propositions. For example, they questioned whether our economic system is either morally sound or an efficient service of people's needs when it places the maximizing of profit before need in motivating economic activity, or when it leaves savings, investment and capital accumulation so completely in private hands, either individual or corporate.

Is the economic system sound or an efficient service of people's needs when it excludes labour from any significant decision-making role in individual industries and work places and in the economy as a whole, or when it degrades and makes obsolete the skills of workers by an ever more sophisticated technology, or when it shows relative lack of concern about social and environmental costs of industrial production, or when it makes marginal poorly placed groups in our society, such as some sectors of the small business community or single-industry towns or some sectors of the farming community, not to mention the working poor, those on welfare and

those who are handicapped in a variety of other ways.

They argued that it was not morally sound or efficient in an economy to cater, as is the case in Canada, to multinational corporations whose priorities are not heavily Canadian, or to allow capital the freedom simply to seek out the cheapest labour pool and the freest arena of operations.

The bishops' political and business critics charged the bishops with general naïveté and with a lack of realism and of economic knowledge. It is not surprising, perhaps, that political leaders, smarting under a pointed rejection of inflation restraint programs, should react with terse indignation.

Businessmen belaboured the bishops as though the latter knew nothing about profit and loss, the necessity of capital, the nature of investments, supply and demand and the workings of the international market. These, interestingly enough, are precisely the same criticisms made of major church social statements in the last 90 years. One reads the critics and wonders whether they have taken time to absorb them or what the bishops are saying, and who indeed is naive or unrealistic, as that language was used with respect to the bishops.

The point, however, is not to take potshots in turn at the bishops' critics, but rather to say that the bishops are not economic innocents. They have their own pipeline into social problems in our communities; they know at first hand, not only directly themselves but through their many priests, the problems unemployment has created.

They also know that capital is the basis of the contemporary economic order in an important respect. They simply wonder why, since capital is the product of a combination of diverse forms of labour, over time its ownership and direction fall to only one party of the industrial process.

They know that savings, interest and profit are a necessary part of an industrial order, but they dispute whether private and corporate appropriation of profit and interest is the only or necessarily the best way of generating savings and directing investment.

They know that in Japan it is a highly competent panel of civil servants, for example, that efficiently directs investment. They know a new technology can be superefficient and eliminate repetitive labour, and they do not criticize it for that, but they are concerned that there are almost no initiatives in this country to point technologically displaced workers to a new future. Even more, they raise the basic question

of the very meaning of work in our changing economy. Work has, after all, been the very core of human identity throughout history and no one has yet provided a very convincing portrait of the way in which a leisure society would work.

As computerization and robotization progress, the bishops ask, should we not now be seeking to create labour-intensive industries where distinctive human creativity can flourish? Must the history of work, they ask, be simply the story of the deskilling of individual workers and the debasing of a class?

With all their concern for the centrality of labour and the dignity of creative work in the process of producing goods and services, the bishops and those of us who broadly agree with them find it puzzling that ideas of economic democracy, of codetermination and of worker ownership should find such uncongenial soil in Canada and, in particular, among our industrial leaders, or why they should meet so often—and it is dismaying that they meet so often—a depreciation of the significance of labour.

For example, a recent Ontario Institute for Studies in Education poll asked groups of employers and members of the public whether, if given the opportunity to organize a work place, they would organize it on the basis of problem-solving work or on the basis of routine labour. It was rather astonishing to discover that the large corporate executives of our country—and a large number of them were polled—said routine labour, whereas the public and small business said on the basis of problem-solving work; a derogation, a depreciation of the labour entailed.

Yet we know that at the SAAB works in Sweden, where workers are organized in work groups on a problem-solving basis, in actual fact they perform much more sophisticated operations than the computer could direct.

4:50 p.m.

We look at the publication, *Learning a Living in Canada*, which was produced by the federal Skills Development Task Force of the House of Commons, and what do we read there with respect to the attitude of employers to investments in human resources of the nature of paid educational leave? "In spite of the overwhelming evidence in favour of investing in people, employers as a whole tend to ignore the long-term value of human investment. Investment in people requires a trust and commitment by both the employer and the employee. Investment in plants and equipment, however, is easiest to engage in and simplest to manage."

The point is, one distances oneself from the very people who are the major players in the economy as far as the provision of work is concerned, and tries to replace them as much as possible with capital, with machinery.

One could look, for example, at the status given to labour leaders in public opinion polls. These leaders are a certain measure of the dislike the Canadian public has for an adversarial system on the basis of which our economy is organized. Yet the public obviously blames those who most clearly represent the disturbances which breakdowns in industrial relationships occasion for everyone. People blame the non-owning partner because he is the one who has to play his part in public, and he cannot retreat behind the scenes quite so easily. It is easy to exploit him in that process.

Surely the time has come for us on all sides to begin exploring the long road to restoring working people's control over their working lives. The problem is not that workers are unable to manage or that they will make erratic, unmanageable or unwise demands. For example, if I may cite it, there is the famous Mondragon Industries in northern Spain which runs purely and entirely on the basis of worker ownership and worker direction. They have done so for 40 years. They employ thousands. They have sales in excess of \$375 million. They run sophisticated research laboratories, schools and a banking system.

They are owned and managed entirely by workers who staff the boards of directors and run the thing as heads of operations on a rotational-term basis. The income spread that is allowed in that industry is only three times from top to bottom. No person may make more than three times the amount of the lowest-paid worker. The industry is 35 per cent more efficient than any comparable industry in Spain.

May I conclude with the remarks in a recent papal encyclical—which the bishops, in turn, lean upon—in which the Pope describes the qualitative difference of the labour component in production and directs us very strongly to the rights which remain unfulfilled for labour in the economy. He urges us towards an economy where, as he states, "On the basis of his work, each person is fully entitled to consider himself a part owner of the great work bench at which he is working with everyone else."

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise once again this afternoon to address the omnibus resolution currently before this House. The member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen)

certainly raises many issues which should be and, in fact, are being addressed by this assembly and the government of Ontario.

Unquestionably, the high level of unemployment in this province is a serious problem which must be dealt with constructively. It would be difficult to find a member who is not concerned about unemployment and its undesirable repercussions. But I am somewhat confused as to how the New Democratic Party proposes to deal with the issues at hand. The resolution currently being debated urges the government to implement five specific short-term strategies.

I must remind the member for Hamilton West that on March 19 of this year, he and his leader, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), along with his colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), issued a statement saying that short-term strategies and solutions were inappropriate. The document, entitled *Make Ontario a Province of Opportunity Again*, stated:

"Tinkering reforms, nickel-and-dime initiatives, make-work, and cheap gestures like hot lines and short-term jobs in institutions already undergoing government-sponsored cutbacks are not the answer. As long as we fail to recognize that unemployment and skills-training programs of our young people are systemic, we will continue arranging and rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic." It goes on to say, "There are no quick fixes."

I submit to this House that our honourable friends across the way do not know the bow from the stern of the Titanic, nor port from starboard.

The New Democratic Party cannot even decide whether individual, specific short-term strategies are the most appropriate avenue for addressing the current problems of inflation and unemployment in Ontario or whether a more comprehensive long-term strategy is more beneficial to the province. Until the members of that party can decide such issues among themselves, surely they cannot expect this Legislature to consider their contradictory proposals.

At least we on this side of the House have been able to balance the short-term and long-term imperatives of resolving the complex issues facing the province today while at the same time accounting for the many diverse factors that must be considered.

Time does not allow for any lengthy elaboration of the policies this government has already implemented to respond to the issues in the member's resolution. Perhaps a few brief examples will serve to illustrate this point.

For instance, the government of Ontario has introduced legislation and initiatives that recognize both unemployment and inflation as priorities. Moreover, each of these problems is being successfully attacked without jeopardizing progress in other problem areas. Let me draw on a few figures to support this position.

I regret my statistics cannot compare to the most impressive collection of statistics held by the NDP research office. After all, according to Orland French recently in the *Globe and Mail*, the New Democratic Party has the world's biggest file of statistics.

Mr. Allen: Do not be so humble.

Mr. Barlow: I am just quoting.

In Ontario, the unemployment rate in February this year declined to 9.9 per cent, down from 12.5 per cent a year earlier. That is a decline of 2.6 per cent, significantly better than the national drop of only 1.2 per cent.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are you going to deal with the resolution?

Mr. Barlow: I am sure the resolution deals with all this.

This government's record in creating conditions conducive to long-term job creation is also most impressive. We recognize permanent job creation will happen only in a positive economic environment. Through policies that have resulted in improved productivity, lower interest rates, government restraint and controlled public sector growth, Ontario is continuing to enjoy sustained economic growth and an increasing number of jobs.

In November 1983, Ontario had 196,000 more jobs than in the previous year. Moreover, those jobs have not been created at the expense of spiralling inflation. Last month's inflation rate stood at 4.7 per cent compared to 7.2 per cent in March 1983. Through legislation such as the Public Sector Prices and Compensation Review Act, passed by this House in the last session, the Ontario government has significantly contributed to the economic recovery. As our figures indicate, the inflation rate has declined dramatically. The year-over-year rate is now at the lowest point in a decade.

These are but a few of the many initiatives this government has undertaken to address the many priorities facing this Legislature. Through careful and thoughtful deliberation, we have been able to balance the imperative of the long-term and short-term strategies, and ultimately to design a set of policies that respond to the many issues and priorities specified in the resolution of the member for Hamilton West.

Because I believe this government has already addressed many of the problems, such as unemployment and inflation, in the best fashion possible, I am afraid I cannot support this resolution.

5 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) is getting to be known as the hit man for the government party. That makes two measures this afternoon he has spoken on and found fault with.

I was rather surprised when the member for Cambridge referred to quick fixes because any thoughtful reading whatsoever of Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis will not find any quick fixes. As a matter of fact, what the bishops of Canada and of Ontario are clearly asking for are some fundamental changes.

First, they are simply asking that we talk about it. If I may quote one paragraph, they say, "What is required, in our judgement, is a real public debate about the economic visions and industrial strategies involving choices about values and priorities for the future direction of this country." Would any member disagree with that? Would any member disagree with the value, the advantage, of simply talking about the moral, economic and ethical direction in which this country is going and the effect it has on people? I would hope not. They are far from talking about quick fixes.

The member regales us with all the great things his government is doing in this area. The member is suggesting: "We cannot support this because everything is fine now, everything is fixed, there is nothing more to be done. Why should we concern ourselves with these petty things?"

On March 21 in Cambridge, the member's riding, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) made two statements. He said, "We are preparing to make quantitative estimations of the manpower and employment impacts of new technology in Ontario for the next decade." In 1984 we are preparing to look at a problem that we have been facing for the last couple of decades. That is how the government deals with this problem.

The Minister of Labour, as I said, speaking in Cambridge, the member's riding, went on to say: "We will examine occupational and industry shifts that have occurred over the last 10 years. We will also attempt to include the occupational demands for the next decade." The government is just going to start that now? That is what we are asked to have faith and confidence in? Thanks, but no thanks.

There is nothing radical whatsoever about this document. May I quote from it once again and ask members to reflect on it? What are some of the options the bishops of Canada ask for? First, "Economic policies which realize that the needs of the poor have priority over the wants of the rich." Would any member disagree with that? I challenge any member to stand up and disagree with that statement.

Would members disagree with this: "The rights of workers are more important than the maximization of profit"? It does not say "more important than profits." The bishops of Canada, like the bishops of the world, are fully aware of the need for profit in industry and business. What they argue about is the maximization of profit so that the rights of workers are ignored and trampled. Again, would members disagree with that? I challenge any member to stand up and disagree with it. Members know they do not and cannot.

It goes on to say "that the participation of marginalized groups has precedence over the preservation of a system which excludes them." What do they mean by "marginalized groups"? The old, the frail, the ill, the low income, the children and the handicapped. Would any member say a system that excludes them should be retained and should not be fundamentally changed? I am not saying for one minute this government has not acted on some of those changes and, in fact, is not continuing to act on those changes. The former Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch), knows well that of which I speak.

No one is suggesting no changes have been made, but surely there is not one member on the Conservative benches who does not agree that more changes are required and that there is a fundamental value priority which says more are required. That is what this asks for. Who can disagree with that?

What really appals me is when I read and hear the objections to these ethical reflections. All we see is nitpicking, crossing t's and dotting i's, trying to find some single little variance between this and what one of the papal encyclicals might have said in the past, some single little variance. Sure, there may be such. I do not quarrel with that, but that is not the point. That is not the issue of this document; that is not the issue, as I understand it, of the member's resolution. The issue is: Let us re-examine what we are doing and see if there is not a better way of doing it.

What are we being asked to re-examine? Unemployment. Is there any member in this Legislature whose community has not been devastated by unemployment, whose young people and older people have not been devastated by unemployment, whose young people have not lost any sense of the future, any vision of the future and any sense of their place in our society? Is there one member who has not met young people in their community and heard that story, heard that plea? Is there one member in this Legislature who does not have an older person in his or her constituency who has lost his job and wonders where he is going and what his future is?

We are asked to develop an industrial strategy that creates permanent and meaningful jobs for people. Who can quarrel with that? Sure, we can disagree about the way in which it is done, but can anyone disagree with the fact that it be done? We are asked to look at social responsibility in the area of social services, health care, education and training. There is nothing radical about that.

As a matter of fact, I noticed that just two days ago the Ontario Economic Council released a new study. What is the main thrust of their study? Bail out workers, not failing companies. The Ontario Economic Council, an agency of this government and funded by this government, says to put people first, and if we have economic problems, we solve those economic problems by helping our people, particularly by retraining them to face the future.

Sure, we are going to have new technologies. Sure, we know we are going to have to move into microelectronics, robotics, computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing. We know that. We know we are going to have to compete with the rest of the world. We know we are going to have to manufacture goods at a price and of a quality that can sell on the world market.

5:10 p.m.

We also know we have a severe shortage of skilled people who are going to enable us to do that, at the very same time that we have between 160,000 and 170,000 young people unemployed in this province, young people I met when I travelled across this province a year and a half ago as part of a task force for our party, from Windsor to Ottawa and from Niagara Falls to Thunder Bay, young people who said: "Give us a chance. Give us an opportunity to be trained or retrained. Give us an opportunity to show we can contribute. Give us an opportunity to show we can stand on our own two feet." That is what this document is asking for, not the t's, the i's and the

minor internal contradictions. That is not what is important.

I would hope my fellow members on both sides of this House would recognize the spirit and the moral message of this document. The vision of the future of this country, this province and of our people is contained in this document that we are voting on. Let us not forget that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a feeling of *déjà vu* of the disarmament debate when I follow that kind of speech, preceded as it was by that of the member for Cambridge. I have never heard such a picayune, partisan, mini-minded kind of response as that of the member for Cambridge to a major ethical and spiritual question which should trouble everyone in this House. It should be challenging each one of us to reassess how our system is working. It infuriates me because one has to put it together with the ostrich-like notions that everything is fine, that everything that could be done is being done, when surely in Cambridge, as much as anywhere else, the member has seen the pain our people are going through as we enter this supposed recovery.

I hope the other members on the government side will at least address some of the issues raised by the bishops. The member for Hamilton West has actually brought this most vital document to a debate here in the Legislature more than a year after it was brought forward. This is no time for small-minded approaches.

Over the last number of months since this document appeared, I have been struck by just how out of touch our whole political system is with our basic spiritual ethic. It seems to me we are schizophrenic as a society. We have an ethical base in the Judaeo-Christian beliefs that are stated here in economic and social terms by the bishops. Yet it has never been translated into our economic, social and political systems. We even run our political system on a basis which is designed to have people reassert where they are in society and reaffirm the status quo. They look to a 30-day period of electioneering where they demand of us as politicians to prove what we can do for them as individuals.

In that 30-day period and then in the four years in between, we have a total separation with the lack of press coverage of some of the moral and economic issues of the day. We have this incredible vacuum where people are not participating. They do not expect us to have any connection here in the Legislature with the kind of precepts we supposedly believe from what we

have learned in our churches and synagogues across this country.

Is it any wonder that only 58 per cent of the people vote? Is it any wonder they have a "me first" approach to things and do not confront the incredible hypocrisy of our system? If we believe what we have been taught in our churches, we cannot allow the politics of abandonment and alienation and the disenfranchisement of the poor to continue. Yet we have done that.

The member for Hamilton West has put that squarely in front of us. He showed us what the bishops did and he said, "Let's reflect on how our system is working." Why is it we can we get up with a smug silly response, picking out the New Democratic Party policies here and there, rather than dealing with the issue of this crazy dichotomy in our society? This is a time for us really to reflect on it.

My own party started off with this linkage of Christian ethics and social and economic policy. There are times I think we have wavered away from that. We have not stayed as true to it as I would like to see. I am not ashamed to say that in this House at this time. One of the things the bishops did was confront people such as myself and those in my party with the need to reflect again about what the premises were from which we were working.

I would hope it would do the same thing for the members of the government party, and not just have them list off a group of statistics about how they were doing out there and how they have done all they can do.

We talked today about spending \$25 million, or whatever it was, on advertising. Some of it was well spent, but I would suggest a lot of it was wasted. There is a lot of talk about building a domed stadium. We have given ourselves increases. We have given a lot of money to the doctors. We have a whole class of consultants developing in our society who are going around pretty well tax-free at the same time as we have more people living in poverty as a percentage and in total terms than we have ever had. Perhaps we have not had it in percentage terms but certainly in numbers at this point. We have whole new groups joining them. They are people who never thought they would be poor. We are abandoning them.

This motion talks about the whole question of single-industry towns in the north. When I was in Kapuskasing, I ran into a fellow who had been working in a plant there for more than 20 years. He was at the point of selling his house and moving south because there was no work for

him. There were going to be more layoffs in the plant.

He was shattered and in spiritual despair, which came from the economic decisions we have been making and the kind of priorities we have allowed in terms of investment in this country. He met me at that meeting and asked me: "What can I do? I do not want to leave here. My children are still here, but they are going to have to move as well. We are going to be split asunder. We chose to live in the north and now that is going from us."

When I was in Windsor, Bishop Gervais told me about the breakfast programs for children multiplying across Windsor. He told me that on Monday mornings those children were taking double helpings of everything. This made the teachers and the priests wonder what they were getting on weekends. This was after the supposed recovery in Windsor, when the auto plants were all back in full swing and nobody really wanted to talk about poverty very much.

When I was in St. Catharines, a public health nurse came up to me and said: "In the school I was in today, I would suggest that 50 per cent of the children are malnourished. A lot of them are in need of dental care which their families cannot afford." We get smug pap instead of confronting our moral and ethical bases here as politicians.

I do not want to address this with a holier-than-thou kind of approach because I do not think there has been a government anywhere in the western world that has not allowed that kind of evaporation of the connection, the spiritual link, to what we are doing here to take place. I think all jurisdictions need to be confronted by this kind of resolution. It is not just the Tories; it is everywhere.

When this came out, I thought it was probably the most important document I had seen in terms of trying to talk to my constituents in a way that was not just the normal self-congratulatory fashion in which we do our riding reports.

Last fall I put out a riding report based on what the bishops had done. I put a series of questions in it that were not the normal ones, where one writes his own questions to get the answers he wants. Instead, I wrote down a series of the assertions the bishops had made.

I wondered if people would start to notice the contradictions in terms of the way they voted, the way they lived their lives, the way they would normally fill out questionnaires, as compared with the kind of moral and ethical questions being raised. I was positively overwhelmed, first, by the number of responses—they went up

by a few hundred—and, second, by the nature of the responses.

One issue raised was whether or not the goal of serving the human needs of all people in our society must take precedence over the maximization of profits and growth. Of those who replied, 82 per cent said that was a concept they agreed with.

I would suggest to the members that has not been taking place in our economic policy. When one talks about the preference for the poor, that has not been taking place. We are giving more rewards in tax shelters and registered retirement savings plans to the wealthy than anything we are doing for the poor. We gave \$270 million to 14,000 doctors last year in this province, while at the same time we split up \$60 million among more than 230,000 poor people.

5:20 p.m.

We are not doing all we can do. I suggest to the government that all the member for Hamilton West is asking is that the members not come back with an ostrich-like approach and take partisan, picayune shots at the members on this side but ask, "Is it not time we re-evaluated how we are operating as a society and how we as politicians are playing a part in perpetuating this schizophrenia in the differences between our ethics and the way our society and economy is run?"

I hope to hear from the next number of speakers more in-depth thoughts on this in their reflections than we have heard up to now.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this debate.

At the outset, I say to my friend from Scarborough West that I do not necessarily wish to share part of the rebuke he offered dealing with a lack of sensitivity and a cavalier attitude towards this important document. I, for one, believe a group of learned and considered individuals such as those who offered this report did so with great sincerity and earnestness.

The results of their studies and deliberations, and the observations they have made about the social fabric of our country, are ones that require careful examination. I have no interest whatsoever in trying to slough off their report as something that is frivolous. I have even less intention of somehow trying to abrogate their right to make such a report.

I believe any group—and we can be as crass as we like about it and say any lobby group—in our society, every individual group, every community-of-interest group is well within its own bounds to sit down to study a problem from its perspective and to offer those findings for public

consumption, whether it be directed specifically at government or at some other interest group in the community.

I think it was in that spirit that the bishops developed their report, made their report and obviously directed it to those groups in our society, the federal and provincial governments, that ultimately may have some greater measure of control over economic recovery.

In response, it would be equally cavalier of us to suggest how the church should conduct its affairs. Although I am sure there is not one member of this assembly who does not have some opinion on the ongoing direction of theology or organized religion, we do not necessarily offer those opinions in the high expectation that a church is going to run out and change its venue or change its course of philosophical direction because we as a Legislature direct it to. However, we would hope there would be a reciprocal exchange of that kind of opinion so others might draw benefit from the reports, one to the other.

I look at the five specific recommendations before us today contained in the resolution of the member for Hamilton West. Regarding the first one, directing that unemployment rather than inflation be recognized as the number one problem, I think it is entirely fair to say there is no one in this assembly who could possibly find otherwise.

In my constituency as in all others, on Monday nights, or whatever night we sit down to meet with our individual constituents, week in and week out we hear the tragedies in human terms; not in the dollar terms we hear here, day in and day out, and perhaps not as to programs designed to help large numbers that do not have the same face of humanity, but in terms of one by one we hear about the tragedies the economic downturn has created.

One of the groups I find it most difficult to deal with is not perhaps as catchy—and I do not mean that facetiously—as trying to deal with youth unemployment. In my riding, and I suggest in my friend's riding in Scarborough, we have real difficulty with major wage earners in the prime of their careers who suddenly find themselves unemployed.

Their unemployment not only affects them as individuals but also affects a much wider range. It has the much greater rippling effect of throwing a stone into the middle of a pond. It may affect their ability to participate and pay their mortgages regularly. The stress of it may cause

marriage breakdowns. It certainly reduces their purchasing power.

It may extend beyond that. It may cripple the ability of their children who had always planned for a post-secondary education to pursue that route. It may ultimately lead to greater dependence upon the state, not just for one young person but for five, six, seven or more people all contained within one family unit. Not only does it place a burden on the state, but it also has a counterproductive effect of not creating any other employment because their job potential is gone, their buying potential is gone and the whole process becomes quite stagnant.

Somewhat off the line of the debate we are on today, I have taken that kind of proposal to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman)—and I am going to speak about the Treasurer and his budget consultation process in a few moments—in the hope that he will recognize on my behalf and, I submit, on behalf of a great many ridings in this province, the very real need to address that particular social problem.

The second part of the resolution says an industrial strategy should be developed to create permanent and meaningful jobs for people in local communities. There is no one in this chamber who would oppose that as a concept. It is certainly one of the most fundamental ones. But I guess, in fairness, it is from that point on that my own view of things tends to go in a little bit different direction. I tend not to think of this as the resolution per se—though of course that is what it is—but rather as a part of the recommendations made by those learned men of theology who have offered their opinions and conclusions to us.

At a time of growing unemployment it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where the problem is, and I am certainly cognizant, as the member for Hamilton West was in his remarks, of the need to continue to involve both organized labour and labour generally in the consultation process. This is a partnership; it would be folly for anyone to suggest that any one element in the economic society, in the economic picture, could remedy the problem.

It was not one element alone that caused the problem. It was certainly not caused by labour, it was certainly not caused individually by management, nor was it caused by the government itself. But only the three of us dealing in concert, I suggest again, are going to be able to restore an ongoing economic health, and we can only do that by creating both meaningful and important

ongoing economic initiatives that will create full-time jobs.

I am certainly keen to have organized labour continue to have input into the process, but earlier today I was involved in an incident here, in the precincts of the assembly, that did something not to erode my faith in organized labour but to give me pause to reflect on exactly what its objectives are.

It was a very simple incident. I was not aware of it, or it slipped my mind because I had other commitments outside today, but I understand that the Ontario Federation of Labour, or others on its behalf, were in to see individual members today concerning the issue of equal pay for work of equal value.

As members will know, I had the opportunity to hear a good measure of that debate both in the standing committee on social development and in the standing committee on resources development over the past number of months. So while I think my position on it is known and is reflected in the votes we have had here, I may not have had the opportunity to meet with them.

I went to the bottom of the staircase, as we all do, to have pictures taken with a group of my constituents who happened to be Girl Guides. Not to my surprise—and it did not bother me in the least—two women who identified themselves as being from the Ontario Federation of Labour were down there with those Girl Guides, and they were explaining their point of view on the issue. I had no problem with that at all, and the young girls were quite interested in it, though they did not really know why they had been singled out for this opportunity.

I said to the representatives that I was certainly prepared to hear from them, but frankly they would not leave; they were not prepared to leave me to speak with my Girl Guides until I gave them my position on the issue. I wonder if that is really the way this kind of consultative process among all three parties is going to develop over the next little while. I truly hope not.

It is important, though, as we go on, that we do try to rebuild the kind of process and the kind of foundation for sound economy that we have always enjoyed in this province and that we are able to put it back together again in no uncertain way. The initiative we have proposed in the speech from the throne—a major economic conference involving all segments of management, labour and the government—I think goes a long way towards, and is liable to produce, some very positive results, all of which I think will not only please the bishops but also provide some

new foundations, some new guidelines and some new directions for what we are doing here.

I am a little bit concerned about the New Democratic Party's proposal dealing with the 32-hour work week. I have to say—not as a matter of government policy, of course—that I wonder whether we are disadvantaging a larger number of people by restricting their work week and their opportunity to learn in order to try to help another group in society. Will there be a lot of losers or potentially a lot more people who end up with less than they have now?

I am convinced that the citizens of Ontario do not want to substitute the underemployment of many for the relative advantage of a few more. What we need is full and productive employment. That is a worn phrase in this House—it is heard here day in and day out—but I am satisfied that by working together we will once again be able to achieve that balance.

While I agree with the member for Hamilton West that the report before us today certainly has merit in it, and certainly there is merit in studying it, I am sure the parts of it that we as a government are able to support and enhance will go on and the very real crisis before us will be eliminated before too long.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the debate. I congratulate and thank the member who brought it about. I would quarrel with some of the economic principles, but there is no person here who would quarrel with the fact that we have 1.5 million jobless people. That is a very serious moral and economic crisis.

I address the point others have addressed as to whether the bishops are the proper people to bring this to our attention. People have criticized them and said that they have no business interfering with economics, that their job is to look after our souls and to see that if we do not have a good life in the present one, at least we have one in the hereafter.

Anyone who has said that has not spent much time reading the Bible, especially the New Testament, and studying the life of Christ, who came from a humble home. He was a carpenter by trade, and he was probably the greatest social revolutionary in the history of the last 2,000 years. There are others who have made a great impact, but the start of it was probably in Christ himself.

One issue that I think of as a great revolution today is women's issues. It was brought to mind today when we had a group of women coming around to our offices asking us about women's

issues, especially the economic issues concerning women. To my knowledge, the first person who really addressed the problem of women was Christ when he addressed the problem of the woman at the well. Her lifestyle was not very well appreciated by the people at the time, so she had to come to draw her water in the heat of the day rather than in the evening or morning when the other women came to get their water from the well. Christ went to speak to her, and for that he was condemned.

Surely the people who carry his mantle and walk in his footsteps and those of one denomination who trace a laying on of hands right down from Christ himself—those people are certainly well qualified to speak on this subject.

The system has served most of us not too badly in the past. We have come through a great period of advancement in social and scientific ways which has provided jobs for so many people. As terrible as the Second World War was, it led to a great many advances in science which we then used in our everyday way of living. All through that period we did rather well.

We are starting to run up against a lot of limits. We have to question whether we can proceed with the same system. Many of us would say we believe in that system. It is a sort of philosophy for us. We have to question whether we have run the limits of it. We are starting to run into some of the limits of our resources. Do we have the lumber, minerals, water and soil to continue exploiting the world as we did in the past?

We are running into limits in our social order because so many parts of the world have other orders that are foreign to ours. We have some very bad conflicts with those other orders. This leads us to the thought of nuclear war, which we debated here with feeling and fervour not too long ago.

We are also running into limits in our ability to comprehend all the changes coming about and the speed with which they come about. Previously, these changes came rather slowly. Today they are coming with such speed that one has to throw aside things believed in yesterday and make up one's mind for tomorrow to throw aside the things believed in today.

The area I know best, in which I have spent most of my lifetime, is farming. I would like to point out the difficulties I see arising in that area because of these problems we have. The matter of inflation is mentioned in the resolution. We have no other industry based so much upon capital. Our present rate of inflation brings about these enormous rates of interest, and farmers

cannot generate the income to pay that interest. So all those people who in recent years acquired farms with fairly low down payments are realizing that unless there is some dramatic turn in the road, they are going to lose their farms.

I had a chap call me last night. He said: "I am right on the edge of bankruptcy. My bank has given me until May 1 before it moves me off the place. I have explored every avenue I can, and I am calling you to see if there is some final, last system you can recommend." I know the chap's situation reasonably well. I said: "There is nothing to do. There is just nothing I can recommend to you." He is down to the point where his equity in the farm is zero, maybe even below zero.

One does not have to be a genius to figure out that in an industry which in the best of times gives a return of about four or five per cent—hoping for good weather and good prices—one cannot have 100 per cent of one's equity borrowed and pay interest rates of 13, 14 and 15 per cent and come out of it, except to go further and further in the hole.

This resolution does touch on whether inflation or unemployment is the greatest problem we have. Unemployment is certainly a problem for unemployed people, but I suggest it also creates an insoluble problem for others. The point is that there is simply no easy solution. As the resolution suggests, we have to start to rethink all the basic concepts of our economy and how we are going to come out of it.

Thirty years ago, about 20 to 25 per cent of the population was engaged in the production of food. We have changed that over the years by taking advantage of all the technical items that have come along. We have used money instead of people, and this is now showing up in our province. We have capitalized our farms, we have enlarged our farms and we now have only about four per cent of the population working on farms. At what cost?

5:40 p.m.

One of the costs, as I have mentioned here many times, is the overworking of soils. Just this week, our agricultural representative in Kent county made the assessment that we had lost 35 per cent of the winter wheat crop in the county. It is the second of these in the last three years. It has been an area of the country that one would say was a very heavy and reliable producer where disasters such as this are not too common, but they seem to be coming now year after year.

Driving around, as I did looking at these farms, we find the water is draining from them.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. McGuigan: There are many other items of interest to do with the environment of our farming that are now coming home to us, just as these items of our economy are now coming home to us. I hope all of us can put our minds to it, throw away some of the set pieces we have and deal with the new realities.

Mr. Breough: Mr. Speaker, I want to join with those members who are supporting the resolution before the House this afternoon. I think it is a very important milestone in the history of the country when we have an opportunity to debate this kind of report and these kinds of reflections.

The statement by the bishops has been a matter of considerable controversy and I want to talk a little about the process. I want to begin with a quote from the *Toronto Star* of New Year's Eve, which was quoting this statement by Gregory Baum, who happens to be with us this afternoon. He said in this article, "This is a risky, courageous stand by the bishops."

That is probably true. On reflection, how sad a day it is when we think the bishops of the church in Canada would have to gear up their courage to talk about the ethical side of unemployment when it is seen to be a unique and starkly different occasion for church leaders to talk about the immorality, obscenity and cruelty of unemployment.

In my youth, I spent a lot of time with Jesuits. One had to kind of hang loose around the Jesuits because they did have a tendency to kind of give you a kick in the rear so they could pour a little religion in your left ear.

Mr. Ruston: Maybe you deserved it.

Mr. Breough: I probably did.

One thing they taught me was that the poorest kind of religion is the religion that is left in a church on Sunday morning. If it does not have enough guts and gumption to get out of the church and into the streets, homes, factories and the places where people work, it is a useless, hypocritical exercise. If it does not give one some moral value that makes one a little bit different every day of the week, not just on one morning of the week, it does not do anybody any good.

It seems to me, by their actions and words, those Jesuit priests taught me that one needs to do things with one's religion. It is not a passive thing. It has to be a part of one's life every day. It makes one sometimes say and do things that ruffle the status quo, but that is the history of the

church, that should be the history of religion and that should be a living history.

That should not be what we read about in the Bible a long time ago or what we learned in Sunday school or catechism classes. That ought to be how we live our lives. Surely if one wants to challenge the credentials of the bishops and say, "They are not economists and they do not know about how industry works" and all this, that and the other thing, the one measure one has to give them is that they are religious leaders, trained and schooled in that field. Their thoughts and reflections on things such as an economic crisis have a great deal of validity.

It seems to me this nation owes them a great debt because they did, as Gregory Baum said, take the risk. They did the courageous thing. They entered into an area which is difficult for religious leaders to enter into, something often seen to be the domain of the political leaders or the economists, but I think they have an obligation to take that risk.

When they did that, I am sure they knew people would call them names. They must have known that since religions began one pays the price when one talks about one's religious beliefs. When one applies that to the status quo, one is almost always grinding against the current economic order. I am sure they were not surprised that people called them Marxists and everything under the sun. As we have seen in this debate this afternoon, people refused to deal with their statement and decided to call them names for a little while. That is a shame, but I am sure they were not surprised by it.

For example, Orland French in his little column on the statement said, "The most stunning reactionary response has come from within the church itself, from Emmett Cardinal Carter, Archbishop of Toronto."

I do not want to be too harsh on His Eminence, but that puts him in the category of those, like the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy), who said in effect they should run away and play with their rosaries, they should not talk about these things, they should light a candle or burn a little incense, but do not deal with the reality of unemployment, do not attempt to offer some constructive reflections on what all of this means. The cardinal should know that if he is going to take the red robes into that swamp they are going to get a little dirty around the edges, and he will run that risk.

I think all of us have an obligation to say they have begun a process here that we need, one that has resulted in a debate here this afternoon, in

municipal councils, in labour councils across the country, in academic circles and in nonacademic circles, and that is to talk about how obscene it is to sit around with 1.5 million people unemployed and neglect totally all the pornography that is associated with unemployment—not just the physical stuff that people have to do without goods and services, but the mental anguish that is caused by all this. That is properly the role of a religious leader.

So they began a process that made people think about the current economic order; that made people think and talk about what we might do to alleviate some of this pain and suffering; that made people say, I hope, that religion is not something which happens on Sunday morning, it is something you carry with you, not on your sleeve but in your heart and in the way you approach economic problems of this kind.

The process is not a smooth one and I am sure the bishops have on occasion probably wished they had not quite ruffled so many feathers on the way through. But I think in their hearts they know this is the job of a religious leader. It is not to tell a population how to order its business; it is to point out that there is an ethical side to all this unemployment stuff.

The things that governments do cause a crisis in a whole. One of the most obscene things you will ever see is someone who has paid the price in an industrial plant for 30 years, who all of a sudden is turned out to pasture and cannot cope with it, as well as the stress it causes within the person's own life and within that little family entity.

I think we all owe the bishops a vote of thanks because they had the courage to suck it up and to talk, in language I would not use obviously, about those kinds of problems and to make this nation stop for a moment and address itself to all the things that are in their statement. I do not think they pretended for a moment to provide us with a panacea; but I think they did their job as religious leaders, and that is to point out that there are really serious ethical questions in the middle of this economic crisis.

I support them in their statement and I support the resolution that is before the House this afternoon.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, may I thank my fellow members for having given time and thought to the resolution I laid before them. I hope others, even though they did not participate in the debate, took time to read the statement which I circulated in their mailboxes, especially

if they had not had the opportunity to do so before.

May I say especially that I appreciate the forcefulness of the remarks of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). Indeed, there is a central spirit in this document that I hope does carry forward into our deliberations in this assembly.

But I would say also there is a rather critical sticking point that is just somewhat beyond the measure of a vague thrust of spirit. The sticking point, of course, is that over 170 or 180 years of an industrial revolution, somehow or other the whole structure of capital and machinery, the means of production, according to our bishops, has been lodged with one particular group and another group has not had a very significant purchase on the way in which it has been used, even though it has impacted heavily on the lives of that group.

The bishops call us back to that significant division, which is the fundamental alienating point that divides people in our society, and I hope that will be the measure we will use in the way in which we address the economic issues as we move into the time in which we address the budget and economic questions in this Legislature.

5:55 p.m.

LIFELINE ACT

The House divided on Mr. Sargent's motion for second reading of Bill 32, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Boudria, Bradley, Breau, Breithaupt, Bryden, Cassidy, Conway, Copps, Cunningham, Di Santo, Eakins, Epp, Grande, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock;

Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Reid, T. P., Renwick, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Sargent, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Wornton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Bennett, Birch, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones,

Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McNeil;

Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Treleaven, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman.

Ayes 35; nays 48.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on resolution 12:

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Bennett, Birch, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Hodgson, Kennedy, Kolyn, Lane, McCaffrey, McCague, McNeil, Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pope, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Treleaven, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman—39.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, in addition to what is shown on the business paper for tonight, we are going to deal with the six third readings before we go to the bills that are already indicated on Orders and Notices. We will do the six third readings at 8 p.m.

On Friday, April 27, tomorrow morning, we will debate the two reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

On Monday, April 30, we will debate the two reports of the standing committee on social development on family violence, one on wife-battering and one on child abuse.

On Tuesday, May 1, in the afternoon and evening, we will do legislation, second reading and committee of the whole House if necessary on Bill 44, followed by committee of the whole House on Bill 141.

On Wednesday, the usual committees may meet.

On Thursday, May 3, in the afternoon, there are private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Durham-York (Mr. K. R. Stevenson) and the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

In the evening of Thursday, May 3, we will deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, and we will continue those estimates on the morning of Friday, May 4.

The House recessed at 6:03 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, April 26, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 26, 1984

The House resumed at 8:04 p.m.

CORPORATIONS INFORMATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, third reading of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Corporations Information Act.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to speak for long about this because we have had the opportunity to debate it on second reading and in committee. I regret I was unable to be here on Tuesday because I had other duties outside of the Legislature.

We were told today that much of the corporations legislation of this province dates back to the 1900s, to the turn of the century. That is some 84 years ago, even before the lifetime of this particular government. I want to put on the record my regrets, not only as a New Democrat but as someone who has spent some time as a financial journalist and one concerned about the effective working of markets and the system, at the government's failure to respond to the constructive suggestions of this party, particularly, to bring our legislation in Ontario up to the standards that are now the norm in Britain, Washington and in the Canada Corporations Act.

The question of information provided by corporations and of their obligations in return for the privilege of limited liability is something this government and its members never seem to have understood. They seem to feel corporations have a divine right to do what they can and what they will in society and in the economy without any sense of a reciprocal obligation. That means, for example, they feel a corporation has no obligation to give the most basic information in terms of the economic impact it has on the community or the most basic information with which it and its operations can be judged by those people who seek to do business with them, by those who consider being employed by them or by those who seek to extend credit to them.

Some of that information is available through commercial services, but the people who are least likely to gain access to them are simple workers and consumers, the ordinary people of this country, who are somehow left out of the charmed circle created by the Conservative

Party. It has been acknowledged for generations, in theory, what limited liability is all about. It is a privilege granted by the state. It enabled the creation of the corporate form of organization—

The Deputy Speaker: I would remind the member the principle of the bill has been discussed. We are on third reading now.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes. I am simply reiterating briefly some of the points that need to be made on third reading.

The corporate form of organization has proven somewhat useful, but an obligation to keep the public informed has developed over time. That is normally done through a corporate reporting mechanism. It is done through securities legislation in Washington and through the Canada Corporations Act nationally. It is not paralleled in Ontario, although this is the major location of corporations in the country. If we do not provide that information here, that leadership will not be provided by other provinces.

Instead, we have a mess of numbered corporations in this country which is impossible to fathom. It is impossible to know who is doing what to whom, who owns whom, what sales are where and what our assets are. This is used, not by legitimate business people but often by people who want to deceive or manipulate the market and real estate. It is a way of ripping off ordinary people in this province.

8:10 p.m.

That is something the government quite categorically indicates it is in favour of. It has indicated that by opposing amendments to this piece of legislation which were proposed the other night. For those who read Hansard and for those who will read about this in the history books, this is only the second or third time this legislation has been opened over the 12 years I have been in this Legislature.

However, the opportunity to modernize the legislation is there. It has been there on those occasions in the past. If this government wants to say to people in business they have a legitimate role in society, I have no objection to that. But they should be saying equally clearly that people who play a role in the economy and who engage in business also have responsibilities and obligations, not only to themselves and the share-

holders but to the community that provides them with trained people, a market and economic stability within which their enterprises can operate. That should include a reasonable level of disclosure of what they do, how much they sell, who owns them, whom they own and what kind of operation they have in Ontario.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, the points of view expressed by the member for Ottawa Centre have been expressed many times in this House in the past. They reflect no new thinking or input from the traditional philosophy and point of view of the socialist party of this province. Nothing new has been contributed to the debate, so I have nothing further to add.

Motion agreed to.

LIQUOR LICENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Williams moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Elgie, third reading of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker—
Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: What is the matter?

Mr. Nixon: You are the matter.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the Liberals seem unhappy about the parliamentary process taking place. I feel an obligation to—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would ask the member to follow our rules of debate and recall that we have had the principles of the bill in earlier debate.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, it is a customary rule in this House that on third reading one can briefly resume some of the main points of the debate if one wishes. My colleague on the procedural affairs committee is nodding his head in agreement.

The government has no legislation to bring forward. It does not know what it is doing. It will not tell us when its budget is going to come down.

The Deputy Speaker: Those comments do not even fit third reading.

Mr. Cassidy: It is simply playing around here and has been doing so for five or six weeks.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member please take his seat.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: If the member did what he was paid to do, he would have been here for second reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Those comments, with all due respect to the member, have

nothing to do—even stretching anything—with the third reading of this bill.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

The Deputy Speaker: May I finish for just a moment.

If the member has a brief capsule that is honestly within the debate on third reading, then he should proceed, but I would remind him he is under an obligation to point out why this needs to be included on third reading.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, we have a motion before the House. In my version of the reading of the rules, a motion before this House is debatable. I am not aware of any limits in the standing orders to that debate either.

Mr. Nixon: He is a member of the procedural affairs committee. We know what that means.

The Deputy Speaker: Could we perhaps dissent from the debate? If the member for Ottawa Centre has a quick capsule of third reading debate, then let the House hear it.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I got up and began a third reading debate in the way you suggested. I was promptly interrupted by heckling from the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party and by interruptions from you.

Mr. Breagh: You were hassling the member, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member will please take his seat. The chair and the honourable member do not want to enter into debate, but in answer to the member's latest point of order, he embarked, triggered by the heckling as he may have been, into a great dialogue of what the government had or had not done and had not offered. He was nowhere even close to anything that resembled a third reading debate. That is my comment on the member's point of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that is an interpretation of the rules I am familiar with. Since when does the chair take it upon himself or herself to censor what an honourable member will say in this House on a debate on second reading, a committee amendment, clause-by-clause study, committee of the whole House or a debate on third reading? Is it your position that the chair has the right to censor? Do you want members of this party to start to submit our

remarks to you in advance? Is this Brazil or Poland or someplace like that?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member may be in that kind of mood, but I suggest we do not embark on it. I would remind the member that, according to our rules of order for procedure on debate on third reading, there is an opportunity for the member to debate why the bill ought not to be ordered for third reading. That is the essence and the total of it. If the member can proceed under those rules and parameters, let him please do so.

Mr. Cassidy: With respect to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of rules that say a member, speaking in a third reading debate, is obliged either to speak for or against. Clearly, if it is a government measure, I would be very surprised if a member of the government were to get up to offer reasons why the bill should not be ordered for third reading. Is there a new ruling that says the members of the opposition must speak only to oppose measures but otherwise must remain silent and make no constructive criticisms at all in the debate?

The Deputy Speaker: No. I am sure the member did not miss the point being made. If so, I will remind him we had the principle of the bill on second reading. Third reading exists merely for a person to make a legitimate debate as to why it ought not to go forward to third reading.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: You are saying that anything said here must be—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I am on my feet. This is not a debate with the chair. The member could go on all night with points of order, but it is not going to happen. Let us settle on our comments. I think the honourable member understands them. He knows what the third reading debate is about. His other points of order have been out of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I was perhaps seeking to defend the rights of the members since, in view of the suggestions of censorship and so on that you make, I would be happy to—

The Deputy Speaker: I will take care of the rights of the honourable members.

Mr. Cassidy: You were not taking care of my rights.

The Deputy Speaker: With all due respect, I was.

Mr. Cassidy: I am speaking on third reading of the bill. The motion is for third reading of the bill. This party will support that third reading. I

simply wanted to bring to the attention of the members that since we debated this bill on second reading a week and a half or two weeks ago, it appears that Manitoba under a New Democratic Party government is now preparing to move forward with respect to the encouragement of small businesses that will be entailed in allowing small breweries and pubs, a principle which was discussed here at some length over the course of this bill—

Mr. Kerrio: Cut it out. The NDP is on the way out and the member knows it.

Mr. McClellan: You are not a free enterpriser; you are a socialist.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right. I hear the member of the Liberal Party is opposing this venture to aid small business.

Mr. Kerrio: I am small business; you are not.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I assume the member is concluding his remarks on third reading.

Mr. Cassidy: I am making my remarks, Mr. Speaker. When I conclude them, I will let you know.

The Deputy Speaker: If the member has the floor, he must abide by the rules. We just discussed the rules and the parameters of third reading. Surely the member wishes to fall within those parameters. Does he understand clearly?

Mr. Cassidy: With respect, I have been subject to constant harassment and interruptions from the chair. That has made it rather difficult for me to sustain my remarks. I point out, as I have pointed out on other occasions, that were it not for this contumacious attitude coming from the Speaker's quarter and perhaps from other quarters in this House, I would have concluded my remarks on third reading some time ago.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member please take his seat.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cassidy: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks shortly.

The Deputy Speaker: The member is out of order in his comments. His reference to the chair, as it has some reference to some particular part of the House, is not at all appropriate. Let me remind him that when I am in this chair I am impartial. His references in the last remarks and a few just prior to them have been totally out of order. This is the last time I will ask the member to proceed within the parameters of the debate.

Otherwise, he knows my alternative: I must name him.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to point out was that in Manitoba they are now taking steps. I think I recommended here that before the end of June this province could provide some leadership with respect to providing something new which would assist in tourism and which would help to raise the quality of life for people here.

The government has taken an initiative in terms of allowing beer in the ball park, but I am suggesting for people who either do not get to the ball park or would like other options in terms of diversity in Ontario, that this is something that could have been done with respect to this piece of legislation.

I am sure the members of my party join me in being prepared to see a new set of amendments to the Liquor Licence Act coming forth before June which would permit brew pubs, mini-breweries and micro-breweries to be established here in Ontario. That is the contribution I was hoping to make. With your support and co-operation together, Mr. Speaker, we could see that done for the province before the summer equinox.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the member for Ottawa Centre was not able to schedule his time to be in the House the other day to participate in the debate and to espouse his support for this undertaking, which he had discussed with me prior to the bill coming forward for debate in the House.

He has taken two courses of action, one of which is inappropriate, to try to deal this evening with the proposed amendment which he had hoped to put that particular day during the debate but which did not come to pass. We recognize and understand that he has his own private member's bill, Bill 35, before the House for debate at another time, so it is inappropriate to debate that issue here this evening.

Motion agreed to.

THIRD READINGS (continued)

Bill 12, An Act to amend the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act;

Bill 13, An Act to amend the Ombudsman Act;

Bill 14, Arboreal Emblem Act, 1984;

Bill 123, An Act to revise the Professional Engineers Act;

HEALING ARTS RADIATION PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mitchell moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Norton, second reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I took the opportunity the other evening to talk to the House leaders opposite. I understand the compendium was thoroughly understood by them. I assume that nothing has changed since then and that we have their support.

Interjections.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to resolve it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). However, the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) is correct in that he did discuss the bill with our critics, myself and the representatives of the New Democratic Party.

We are not going to oppose the bill. That does not mean to say we like it very much, to tell the truth, because the government seems to be using, to some small degree, the facility known as the computerized axial tomography scanner in a rather strange and unfair way. Rather than use that descriptive phraseology regularly, I will revert to the usage that the bill employs and call it a CAT scanner or, if the members prefer, a scat canner.

One thing that concerns me is that this bill gives so much control to the Ministry of Health as to where these facilities are going to be installed. The wording, as usual, is esoteric, in that such a unit can only be installed in a hospital or other facility, or in a hospital within a class of hospitals, or in a facility within a class of facilities.

I am not sure what all that means, but I have a feeling that the parliamentary assistant has been advised by Miss Wysocki herself in a very careful and complete way so that nobody is going to install a CAT scanner unless the minister gives his approval.

This has not been the case in the past. I see the ministerial adviser peeking out from around the throne. As usual, she is very welcome in the chamber, because I find her legislation is usually very well drawn indeed and complete, without loopholes.

Members may recall that a number of communities in years gone by have petitioned the ministry for a CAT scanner of their own. Not the least is Brantford itself, represented by the

member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), who is sitting in the back row beside the parliamentary assistant and who may join in this elaborate debate somewhat later in the evening as it draws on.

One thing that concerns me, for example, is that one of the smaller provincial centres in the Niagara Peninsula—St. Catharines, I believe—was able to get approval from the ministry for a CAT scanner some years ago. The people in Brantford find it difficult to understand why approval would have been given to St. Catharines, for all of the great need there, when a similar need, particularly in a community of a similar size and maybe with at least as many problems involving mental facilities, was denied.

Our officials in the district health council have made it clear, in parroting the views of the ministry, that we have access to the facilities in Hamilton; but they are no more readily available than those of the city of St. Catharines.

8:30 p.m.

I suppose all we really lack is an entrepreneur with the heft of an Archie Katzman. The member for Brantford has a lot of heft, there is no doubt about that. When it comes to paving Highway 403 in my riding, he is the guy who actually makes the announcements. When it comes to saving the homes in Onondaga township that are about to tumble into the Grand River, he has the heft to stop the erosion of the banks.

However, in this instance the government has seen fit to pass special legislation. A city like Brantford, which has certain financial resources and excellent medical facilities, does not have a CAT scanner. As they look at the possibility, they find in Bill 27 that any possible initiative which might come from the local community is cut off at the source for all time. It can only go into that city with the full and clear approval of the ministry.

While subsection 22a(1) as amended indicates it can only go in these hospitals or facilities, or facilities within facilities, subsection 22a(3) goes on to say: "No person shall install or operate or cause or permit the installation or operation of more computerized axial tomography scanners, (a) in a hospital or other facility; (b) in a hospital within a class of hospitals; or (c) in a facility within a class of facilities, than the number of computerized axial tomography scanners prescribed by the regulations."

In other words, unless the officials of the ministry give their imprimatur, Brantford will have to be a second-class community for all time

because the ministry has decided it is not going to install such a facility in our community.

I realize that with the tremendously expanding costs of the provision of medical services and of these elaborate, modern, expensive facilities, they cannot be installed in every community hospital. This would not make sense. However, it seems to me the ministry is acting in a rather unfair and perhaps injudicious way in passing this legislation before some of the senior hospitals in the province have been so equipped.

I hope the parliamentary assistant will be able to indicate clearly in the House that there is an intention and money set aside for establishing these facilities across the province, rather than saying there are some now established and no more are going to be permitted.

The parliamentary assistant is violently shaking his head, almost to the extent of losing his hearing aid. However, in his comments on the principle of the bill, I hope he can assure me and members from many other communities who feel they should have at least a hope of obtaining these facilities that the prospect is not for ever snuffed out by the passage of Bill 27.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, as the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health pointed out, we do intend to support the legislation that is before us which regulates the addition of new CAT scanners to the health care delivery system across the province. Far be it from me to—

Mr. Nixon: Correct?

Mr. McClellan: Not even correct, but talk history to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon). I believe this is really a re-enactment of powers which the Ministry of Health gave itself some years ago when it discovered that hospitals were engaging in fund-raising campaigns to obtain CAT scanners as prestige items.

Mr. Nixon: It also has something to do with saving lives.

Mr. McClellan: I will come to that. However, wealthy communities with maybe five or six hospitals found themselves in the middle of what was, quite frankly, a rather crazy competition between large teaching hospitals, each of which wanted to have a CAT scanner, each of which was in a community that could raise money on the fund-raising market to obtain CAT scanners and each of which was installing a CAT scanner.

Less advantaged communities, such as Sault Ste. Marie, Brantford, Peterborough—

Mr. Nixon: St. Catharines.

Mr. McClellan: —and St. Catharines, which were not able to raise easily the \$1 million of private capital that it takes to purchase a CAT scanner, found themselves disadvantaged. Second, the ongoing operating costs, which now are about \$150,000 a year for a CAT scanner—

Mr. Mitchell: The figure is higher, much higher.

Mr. McClellan: I am just reading from the figures provided in the compendium. If the figures are false, as the Ministry of Health figures so often are—

Mr. Mitchell: If the honourable member will look in the compendium, I think he will find the figure is \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The parliamentary assistant will have his opportunity.

Mr. McClellan: I stand to be corrected, because I was reading the statement of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton), page 2: "The purchase price of a CAT scanner is currently about \$1 million and the ministry contributes approximately \$150,000 a year towards the operating expenses of each of them." Perhaps the ministry does not pay the full cost. At any rate, they are very expensive.

Quite frankly, we have accepted the principle that the Ministry of Health should be involved in the rational planning and distribution of CAT scanners across Ontario. It does not make sense to have an open-chequebook policy with respect to superexpensive medical technology. We accept the principle that the Ministry of Health has an obligation to regulate the introduction of expensive medical technology, but the corollary is that it has to be done on some kind of rational and fair basis.

When I was critic for the Ministry of Health, it was clear there were very fundamental inequities in the distribution of CAT scanners. I must say that Toronto has CAT scanners coming out its ears. Peterborough does not have a CAT scanner. I used to visit that great constituency relatively regularly on my tours, and I discovered there was a tremendous backlog of referrals from Peterborough to Toronto hospitals. It was a matter of great concern that despite the abundance of CAT scanners in Metropolitan Toronto, there appeared to be a serious problem of access.

Again, there are other communities I am sure we will hear about during the course of the debate. This is one of those issues that prompts a fairly strong degree of emotional response. A community hospital is the very symbol of

community spirit and pride. I suppose it has become a matter of first class or second class whether or not there is a CAT scanner in a community hospital. The ministry is going to be hearing from all the communities that feel they have been unfairly treated.

I think there is an imbalance between the large metropolitan areas, with their well-financed teaching hospitals and with all the advanced medical technology money can buy, and the smaller centres, such as Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Brantford, whose regional hospitals are not blessed with great pools of private wealth to draw upon and have not been treated fairly by the Ministry of Health.

I would be curious to hear the parliamentary assistant talk about short-term and long-term plans for CAT scanners. I suppose it is too much to ask as we stand on the eve or the precipice, or perhaps not, of a provincial election. I assume we will have all of these announcements with respect to additional CAT scanners in the fullness of time. It would be helpful for the parliamentary assistant at least to let us know which projects have been approved in the last year's budget and which projects the ministry intends to approve in the coming fiscal year.

8:40 p.m.

Again, it would be helpful if the minister could outline for us, without getting into a really elaborate debate, where advanced technology fits into the big picture. I served as critic for the Ministry of Health for about four and a half years and I never did understand what the philosophy of the ministry was with respect to preventive health care and curative medicine.

Computerized axial tomography scanners represent one of the more expensive and spectacular pieces of disease technology. I think they have very little to do with genuine preventive medicine in the sense in which we understand it. They are a useful, remarkable, even miraculous diagnostic tool, and they can help—the former Minister of Health is looking daggers at me.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are just curious to hear what you are going to say.

Mr. McClellan: They obviously can catch disease symptoms early, but that is not preventive medicine; it is still curative medicine; it is still disease oriented. There has to be a symptom there for the CAT scanner to detect; there has to be disease present for the CAT scanner to function.

While all of us are acutely aware of the tremendous advances that have taken place in curative medicine as a result of the introduction

of the CAT scanner, we still are waiting for some coherent policy from the Ministry of Health and this government with respect to genuine preventive health care. We can pursue this at the estimates debate, but we appear to be as far away from that as we were in the 1970s when CAT scanners were first introduced.

We now have a Health budget of some \$8 billion, nearly all of which goes to the treatment of disease, to curative medicine, and it is a sum of money that defies comprehension. I think the budget has almost doubled since I became critic for the Ministry of Health in 1981. My recollection was that the budget in 1981 was something around \$4 billion; this year it will be \$8 billion. Almost all of that money goes to the treatment of disease and almost none of it, a minuscule, tiny, inconsequential portion of that \$8 billion—I suppose something like \$20 million a day is now spent on health in this province—goes into preventive medicine.

CAT scanners are the most spectacular and, I suppose, the most high-priced big-ticket item in the array of curative medicine equipment that is available in our health care delivery system; but sooner or later the government is going to have to do some very hard-nosed cost-benefit analysis and make a determination of whether for the \$8 billion we are spending we are actually making very much new progress in decreasing our mortality rates and improving the quality of life for our people.

Again, these are matters that are more appropriately debated during the estimates of the Ministry of Health, and I simply wanted to set a few concerns on the record. But we are pleased to support this legislation.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I have very brief comments on this bill following up on some of the thoughts put forward by my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

I, of course, will be supporting the legislation and I agree with comments made by other members that this particular advance in medical science is a very valuable one, one we would like to see taken advantage of in all of our communities.

I have no particular quarrel with the ministry citing by regulation where such an expensive piece of equipment would be located. However, as my friend opposite mentioned, we certainly have had an interest in the city of Brantford in a piece of equipment of this sort.

I would like to point out to the parliamentary assistant that I would certainly understand if one or two of these CAT scanners were located in

Hamilton, which is the large metropolitan centre near my community; I would certainly accept that and the fact that we do not have one. However, I understand there are in fact four CAT scanners in Hamilton. There is one at the McMaster University Medical Centre. I think there is one at St. Joseph's Hospital, one at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital and another that does not spring to mind.

Mr. Nixon: There is a fifth in St. Catharines.

Mr. Gillies: There is one in St. Catharines. It leaves me wondering—

Mr. McClellan: Why is that? They must have better representation or something.

Mr. Gillies: I would hesitate to comment on that, but I wonder about such a distribution whereby a large metropolitan centre could have four CAT scanners, whereas a centre such as Brantford that services—Brantford General Hospital is the major hospital, I point out to the parliamentary assistant, not only for Brant county but also for—

Interjection.

Mr. Gillies: I was just coming to that.

It is also the central medical facility for many people in North Dumfries township, towards the southern part of the riding of Cambridge, for people in the northern part of Haldimand-Norfolk, and even for people in parts of Oxford county and so on. We draw from a larger catchment area at Brantford General Hospital than I suspect is sometimes recognized by the ministry.

I do not particularly want to quarrel about that. I would be remiss if I did not mention that the ministry has been very generous in providing new and expanded facilities at the Brantford General Hospital. Some of those facilities were opened by our parliamentary assistant, along with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and myself not many months ago. The ministry has not been parsimonious in recognizing our need for a new emergency department and X-ray facilities. I realize there is a quantum leap when one is talking about a \$1-million-plus piece of equipment like a CAT scanner.

The Brantford General Hospital does have reserve funds available to it. I doubt if they have nearly enough on reserve to purchase a CAT scanner, but they have enough to start looking at it as a proposal.

I am quite happy to support Bill 27. I hope in the implementation of the terms of Bill 27 the ministry will be open-minded and fair in its

adjudication of requests by smaller cities to acquire such a piece of equipment.

I would be very disappointed to find down the road that there was yet another CAT scanner in addition to the four already in Hamilton, or that some other community of much less merit than Brantford, which I would not dare mention, would be the recipient of one before we receive that consideration.

Brantford is not a second-class community in any respect, and we deserve a facility like that to add to all the other first-class health facilities we already have.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the legislation and the comments of my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) with regard to the thrust of funding health care in this province by the government, and to agree with his concerns about the emphasis on capital equipment and institutions and, overall, the emphasis on curative medicine and treatment procedures rather than preventive medicine.

I recognize, as has the government—I am sure the parliamentary assistant would agree—that in dealing with such very expensive equipment one has to have some sort of control to ensure that efforts to raise funds for this equipment are not duplicated across the province in various communities and that the worthwhile efforts of many people and organizations who dedicate themselves to raising funds for health care are not wasted. I certainly support the thrust of the legislation.

8:50 p.m.

Having said that, I have some sympathy with some of the comments made by members with regard to how the government might decide on the distribution of these CAT scanners, especially when one looks at subsection 22a(3) of the bill.

As members from my part of the province have said many times, we come from an area that has distances many of the other members here from southern Ontario do not really understand. I know the parliamentary assistant has some feeling for that, because he has been in my riding a number of times and I am sure he understands the kinds of distances people have to travel in order to get the health care they need.

There has been a long and festering issue in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma over the ministry's decision some time ago, under the auspices of the present Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) when he was Minister of Health, to designate Sudbury as the regional health centre for northeastern Ontario. While I do not have any real objections to that decision in itself, it is

important to realize that when this decision was taken a number of officials who were active in setting policy obviously did not understand as much as they might have about transportation patterns in our part of the province.

When one has to travel for care, one often has to take into account the need for speed. This may be surprising to many members of the House, but, with respect to the swiftness of travel, it is easier for people from Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma to reach London, Ontario, or Toronto than it is to reach Sudbury. One might ask why this is, now that we have the air ambulance service and so on. But the fact is that more patients are transferred to southern Ontario to be able to take advantage of the facilities they have than have ever been transferred to Sudbury.

Mr. Piché: Because that is where the medical facilities are.

Mr. Wildman: They have a CAT scanner in Sudbury. The fact is that transfers still take place to London and Toronto from the Sault Ste. Marie hospital.

As a matter of fact, when I was coming down here earlier this week I had the unfortunate experience of meeting an acquaintance of mine, a constituent from Goulais River who teaches in Sault Ste. Marie. I was very surprised to see him getting on the same plane as I was. I asked him why, and the reason was he was travelling to Toronto in transit to London so he could be with his son, who just that morning had been transferred by air ambulance to London to have a CAT scan because of an emergency and an accident he had been in that morning.

I would certainly hope they have not found anything really serious and that his son has recovered. But the point is that people in the medical profession, people at the health councils and so on, have been arguing in our area that one must not only look at distance but one must also look at transportation patterns in determining the location of these facilities; and the fact remains that it is easier, certainly by normal carriers, to reach Toronto than it is to reach Sudbury from Sault Ste. Marie. Toronto is an hour's flight. If you are going to Sudbury, the only regular carrier would be norOntair, and you have to stop in Elliot Lake on the way; if you are going by ground transportation by ambulance, you have a three-hour trip.

This has been pointed out to the ministry. The former minister, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), was very much opposed to the efforts of the medical community, the service clubs and others in Sault Ste. Marie who were trying to

raise funds for a CAT scanner for Sault Ste. Marie. He said: "We have one in Sudbury. That should serve your area."

I am glad to see that attitude is changing and did change to a point. I have a clipping from the Sault Star, dated January 26, 1981, with the headline, "Sault CAT Scanner Highest Priority." The article states:

"A Sault Ste. Marie proposal for a CAT scanner is one of highest priority being considered by the Health ministry. The announcement of that and other improved medical services in northern Ontario came today in an address by Russ Ramsay, MPP, Sault Ste. Marie. He was subbing for Health Minister Dennis Timbrell, who remained in Toronto because of the illegal strike of nonmedical Canadian Union of Public Employees workers."

I know many of us will recall that in 1981 there was a great deal of political activity in this province. At that time the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay), representing the government and the then Minister of Health, made a statement that the CAT scanner was of highest priority for Sault Ste. Marie. We still do not have a CAT scanner in Sault Ste. Marie, more than three years later, although the funds have been raised. I wonder what the reason is.

I was informed by the present Minister of Health, in a letter dated July 22, 1983, that the district health council had established a subcommittee to assess the need for a CAT scanner in Sault Ste. Marie and that the committee was considering it. Since that time, I believe the ministry has agreed to the location of a CAT scanner in Sault Ste. Marie, although I am not certain of that. I hope it is the case. I hope too that before we see another provincial election, we will have a CAT scanner to serve Algoma district and Sault Ste. Marie, located at one of the hospitals in Sault Ste. Marie. Both hospitals there are co-operating with one another.

Again, while I am not opposed to the designation of certain areas as medical centres for different parts of the province, I believe distance must be taken into account and transportation patterns must be considered. I find it somewhat amusing to hear members from southern Ontario, whether they be from Brantford or whatever, complaining about the distance they might have to travel to London or Hamilton when we have to have people transferred, as my constituent had his son transferred this week, from Sault Ste. Marie to London.

Mr. Nixon: We have to go a long distance to catch fish.

Mr. Wildman: We certainly have a lot of advantages in Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma and northern Ontario, but at the same time we do not have many of the facilities that people in southern Ontario take for granted.

As all of us here will recognize, we all pay the same taxes, we all pay the same Ontario health insurance plan premiums and we in northern Ontario help to subsidize the facilities that are established for treating the sick in southern Ontario. We do not debate that in many cases very sophisticated facilities should be located where there is a larger population, in the larger population centres; but if we are going to do that, please let us make certain there are ways in which we can reach those facilities and we can benefit from them since we are also contributing to them.

I again urge the parliamentary assistant to persuade the minister and the government to move as quickly as possible on the provision of a CAT scanner for Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma district.

9 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I rise to add a couple of brief comments about Bill 27. I must say the comments made by the previous speaker, the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), rang very clearly in my ears simply because I share a part of Ontario which, while not as northerly as his district, is one that faces what one might call the tyranny of distance in that, outside of the hospitals, we really do not have too many specialized facilities in the city of Pembroke. Virtually everyone in the county of Renfrew who must receive specialized health services must travel a minimum of 100 to 125 miles to the regional health centre in the national capital.

Mr. Nixon: You get cheap licences.

Mr. Conway: In a rare moment, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is quite incorrect in that respect.

In the compendium prepared for Bill 27, I note the government has set out those areas in which the 33 computerized axial tomography scanners are located or will be located.

Mr. Mitchell: That is being read wrong, but I will address that later.

Mr. Conway: I am interested to hear the parliamentary assistant clarify that because I have before me a compendium which says: "Current availability: At present there are 33 CAT scanners approved for operation across the province. These scanners are or will be in place in the following hospitals."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): That is not a matter of debate.

Mr. Nixon: It certainly is.

The Acting Speaker: In the sense where there is the back and forth participation that is now taking place. The member for Renfrew North has the floor, so please continue. The interjections from the parliamentary assistant are not necessary.

Mr. Sweeney: It sure makes for interesting listening.

The Acting Speaker: And Hansard.

Mr. Conway: The minister of health for Ottawa and eastern Ontario has just arrived, the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett). I note his arrival.

I would appreciate some clarification from the parliamentary assistant as to the exact meaning of that list. I was surveying it moments ago while the member for Algoma was on his feet. If that list is at all representative of what is the case and what will be the case, 15 of the 33 approved scanners—almost 50 per cent—are in the Metropolitan Toronto region.

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean hog town?

Mr. Conway: According to this appendix, 15 of 33 of these scanners will be located in the Metropolitan Toronto region.

The member for Algoma is quite right in pointing out there will be significantly fewer scanners in northern Ontario. On a per capita basis, I suspect the number will be dramatically lower. I am quite prepared to accept, as the member for Bellwoods so ably pointed out, the fact we are going to have increasing specialization. Hospital centres will develop to utilize these very expensive instruments of high medical technology.

Notwithstanding that, I am rather concerned that, according to this appendix, almost 50 per cent of those approved scanners will be found in Metropolitan Toronto. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has pointed out, with the apparent support of his colleague the member for Brantford, that Brantford will not receive any attention. It does not appear on the appendix.

Only McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay and Sudbury General Hospital are approved in northern Ontario. I gather they both have scanners already. The member for Algoma was pointing out in his remarks that was a community—Sudbury—and I remember in a previous incarnation when I was Health critic being in that part of northern Ontario, the Sudbury area, when there was a very active campaign being spear-

headed by community leaders to raise the necessary capital funds to have the scanner installed in one of those hospitals.

I say to the parliamentary assistant there does appear to be something of too great an emphasis on Metropolitan Toronto and something of too light an emphasis in terms of northern Ontario. I would like him to address his comments to that and to give some indication of whether northern Ontario might expect an additional CAT scanner.

Knowing of his great interest in our part of the province, I see from the list that the Ottawa Civic Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario currently have scanners, and approval has been given to the Ottawa General Hospital and the Kingston General Hospital for a scanner to be installed.

I might parenthetically note that one could not imagine the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton), the Minister of Health for Ontario, being able to walk in daylight through the streets of historic Kingston and not being able as Minister of Health to announce that he in all his ministerial glory was able to bring, not just OHIP to that fair city but the CAT scanner as well.

For our region, I note that Cornwall is obviously not being considered and neither are Pembroke and Belleville. I do not see Peterborough anywhere on the list. I am sure the Speaker, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner), would be very disappointed to note that his community, one as large as Brantford, as my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk might want to note, is also not being considered. I do not see North Bay on the list as well.

I recognize that not everyone is going to qualify—that is a given—but the point that jumps out from this list is that there certainly seems to be a great concentration, not surprisingly, in Metropolitan Toronto and some notable gaps in northern and in eastern Ontario.

Perhaps the parliamentary assistant might address himself to the currency of this list. How are people not on the list ever to expect to gain consideration? What will he be able to say in public to his friend the member for Brantford and my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk about their possible acquisition of this highly prized and very expensive technology.

I want to conclude by noting that perhaps it is inevitable that we have apparently accepted—and I am told this legislation is to pass with a nod—in this province that cabinet authority, centralized here at the Legislature and exercised by way of regulation is going very effectively to reach out into these communities. I know the parlia-

mentary assistant would want to say and will say, I am sure, when he rises to his feet that since we are paying much of the bill we should have some say about where the technological developments are allowed to take place.

I look at Bill 27 and think about the principle and what that same principle might mean in terms of its application elsewhere. I vividly remember from my own recollection of the debate we had here about two years ago on Bill 113, An Act to amend the Public Hospitals Act, an amendment that gave the cabinet of this province very great powers to intervene directly and significantly in the operations of public general hospitals. It was the old Toronto East General Hospital amendment that the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) might want to look up some time.

9:10 p.m.

I see something of a pattern here that worries me a bit in that we have, and we will with the passage of Bill 27, formalized and credited to the executive council yet another extremely important instrument of centralized authority. This will have a dramatic impact on the conduct and capacity of local health authorities and on local citizens anxious to expand their health care infrastructure.

I know my friend the member for Carleton is interested in this debate because he has been watching and probably is playing a part in the debate in the national capital right now. The priority lists of the Ottawa-Carleton regional district health council do not seem to recommend themselves to the ministry of which he is so ably the parliamentary assistant.

According to a report in our English-language daily in the national capital region the other day, neither the parliamentary assistant nor his friend the Minister of Health has been able to give the people of the region or the health council either a clear understanding or a clear explanation of why the Ministry of Health has different priorities for the region than does the health council.

Perhaps unbeknownst to the member for Carleton, the authorities have been dealing with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) who, I learned from my medical friends in Ottawa, has enormous sway on these matters of social policy, to say nothing of other provincial policy in the Ottawa and eastern Ontario region.

It does concern me somewhat that through this kind of legislation we are increasing the centralized authority by means of which the executive council, the cabinet and the Ministry of Health, through regulation, can very directly control the

allocation of important health resources in Ontario.

It may be the price we have to pay for our very public health care delivery system. If that is the price we have to pay, however, I think it is incumbent upon members of this Legislature at least to note it as the power builds by dint of the passage of this kind of legislation.

I resume my seat inviting my friend the member for Carleton, the parliamentary assistant, to help me better understand the specific application and currency of the appendix attached to the compendium.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, partly to correct the record but also partly to make a point, I would like to make a comment or two on the bill.

My question arises out of the comments of the member for Brantford, who observed there were four CAT scanners in Hamilton located in four hospitals. There are only three Hamilton institutions on the list. If this is indeed the case, I would like the record to stand corrected. There are, in fact, three CAT scanners in Hamilton.

Especially since the addition of the McMaster University Medical Centre but even before that time, Hamilton has been a major medical centre. It has been a centre for a high degree of specialization in a number of areas. At present the pressure of the population on CAT scanner facilities in that city is such that there is at least one month's waiting list for anyone who wishes to get that kind of examination.

I would also like to observe that if three is the accurate number, when one looks at the greater Hamilton area—excluding nearby cities such as Brantford, but just taking in Stoney Creek, Hamilton, Dundas and Burlington—there is a population of some 600,000, which means one CAT scanner to every 200,000 people. The 15 located in Toronto work out to an average of one for every 150,000 of population.

I am not aware whether there is some rational reason for that kind of distribution difference and I would like to have an explanation of that, if I could. It does seem to me that if Toronto has been reasonably allocated 15 CAT scanners, then it underlines the claim of a number of smaller communities with hospital populations in the vicinity of 200,000 that they should have that kind of facility available. It also suggests that the Hamilton region hospital system, with the specialization it offers and the ancillary services that go with a CAT scanning facility, certainly needs to move somewhat in the direction of Toronto in terms of the number of CAT scanner implacements.

That is all I wish to observe. Perhaps the parliamentary assistant can comment upon the figures if the record does need to stand corrected.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to remember all the questions that were asked and as briefly as possible to answer them all.

There is a fourth in Hamilton, Henderson General Hospital, which does not appear on the list, unfortunately.

Mr. Nixon: Are there any other omissions?

Mr. Mitchell: I do not have the master list, so I cannot confirm that.

I would like to say to the member for Algoma, that not only have I had the pleasure of visiting his riding and a couple of very nice spots up there, but I have the pleasure as well of having his mother-in-law as a constituent.

I want to assure the members opposite that I believe there are 33 CAT scanners approved to be installed or actually being installed at this time. However, we do expect in the vicinity of six additional applications this year. When we say there are 32 or 33, we do not mean that is the limit. There are criteria I think one would rightly expect to find, however, because the equipment is very expensive—\$1 million to \$1.2 million, plus up to \$500,000 a year to operate. It really depends on the number of scans that it is to be used for during the year. Going through some of those criteria may be useful.

Please do not forget that we are talking about an X-ray device. If I can make a personal observation, I have had people talk to me about their concern over the number of X-rays they are given when they go to a dentist, for example. We have read in the newspapers that sometimes people are a little concerned.

We are talking about a very narrow X-ray device here.

This device has been dealt with since 1977 under the Public Health Act, but since we now have the Health Protection and Promotion Act, it should rightfully be included under the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act. It is very expensive, not only by way of capital cost, but in operational costs. I know members would want to be sure that it is in the right place, in a facility where it can be properly operated and where those people who are being examined by the device know they are in the best possible hands.

These criteria are basic for the acceptance or installation of a CAT scanner and cannot be taken in isolation. There should be a minimum referral population of 300,000. I will grant that the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) did raise

some figures, and there is no doubt there are adjustments, but that figure is basic.

Geographically isolated areas as well may be given special consideration. There is also a requirement that the machine should be able to provide at least 3,000 scans per year per unit.

9:20 p.m.

Another requirement is that each hospital that applies must be able to demonstrate it will be able to recruit—it involves X-rays and we want to be sure it is properly handled—the proper professional and technical staff who are able not only to operate it and use it but also to make sure the thing is functioning properly.

Mr. Nixon: Surely the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) can get those for you.

Mr. Mitchell: Listen, I have not mentioned that we are now going beyond this. The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) may not be aware, but there is talk in Ottawa of a device that does not fit within the X-ray category but is now being sought after by some of the trauma centres. I am referring to an NMR; I think it is correctly called nuclear magnetic resonance.

Mr. Conway: Claude, we have got to get one of those for Ottawa.

Mr. Mitchell: There is a request in from Ottawa; I should make the member aware of that.

Each hospital also has to prove first that it has the financial resources to purchase the equipment and the ability to operate the equipment without incurring a financial deficit. We also must remember that recommendations in support of CAT scanners must be made by the district health council in the area and forwarded to the minister for his consideration.

It has been clearly recognized that this ministry provides \$150,000 towards the operating costs of each unit. However, hospitals may apply for capital renovation costs for installing a scanner; the ministry may agree to pay two thirds of these costs if the project is considered acceptable and if sufficient funds are available.

I hope the criteria I have indicated may help answer the question of why a machine is not in Brantford, in Sault Ste. Marie or in other places. I do not want to say tonight they will not get one, because that would be as wrong as saying they are going to get one tomorrow.

Mr. Wildman: The Minister of Labour said that in 1981.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, unfortunately, I will not do that. But I think it is fair to say I am aware there is this request from the Sault and that the

support appears to be there, again bearing in mind the cost of operating and the capital cost, and the member has assured me they have raised the money.

It would be absolutely wrong of me to say it will happen; but I think it is also fair to say the request is there and very serious consideration will be given, bearing in mind that I hope it has the support of the district health council.

Mr. Haggerty: Why would it not have the support of the district health council?

Mr. Mitchell: It depends on the priority lists that the district health councils have. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, or perhaps it was the member for Renfrew North, raised the issue of what appears to be a divergence of views or opinions as to what the district health council is saying and what are its—

Mr. Haggerty: They are an arm of your ministry.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mitchell: In any event, I have attempted, I hope, to answer the questions—

Mr. Nixon: They take the blame; you take the credit.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Carleton is responding in final form to the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I must be honest. I have appreciated the questions raised this evening. I am not sure I have answered them all, but I have tried to do so by pointing out the criteria required for the use and provision of a CAT scanner. If questions were raised that I have not answered, I assure the members I will go through Hansard and make sure they are answered.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

House in committee of the whole.

MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 42, An Act to amend the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act.

On section 1:

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying when I adjourned this debate on the evening of Tuesday, October 11, 1983, Bill 42 is a very serious and important piece of legislation in which this Legislative Assembly ought to take considerable interest. From speaking to my friends the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), the member for Windsor-Sandwich

(Mr. Wrye), the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) and others, I know there is a keen, ongoing interest in this legislation.

Mindful of the fact that we had this bill carried over from a previous session, I want first to report that at last count the Canadiens were leading three to one halfway through the second period. Is that correct? If they continue that, I will lose \$10 tonight. I hope the government House leader can bring reports to me as I continue with these remarks.

I am a little surprised to see this bill back in the House and on the agenda so early in the spring session. Just to refresh everyone's memory, Bill 42, An Act to amend the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act, has as its principal provision legislative control by this government of operating budgets at the 15 or 16 Ontario universities.

The bill requires that "no university shall incur in any fiscal year a cumulative deficit in its operating fund that is in excess of two per cent of its operating revenue for the year." Bill 42 also requires that universities "make such financial reports to the minister, in such form, containing such information and by such dates as the minister may require."

The bill also provides for the appointment of one or more persons to investigate and report on the financial situation of a university. The Lieutenant Governor in Council is authorized to "appoint a university supervisor for a university where, having regard to the content of the report of an investigation...the Lieutenant Governor in Council is of the opinion that...the financial situation at the university" is such that action should be taken to improve it.

The university supervisor is required to provide "advice and guidance to the governing body and the chief executive officer of the university." The university supervisor may request that "the governing body or the chief executive officer do any act that they have authority to do" and may do the act on their behalf if they fail to comply with his request.

Provision is made for reports by the university supervisor to the minister. The appointment of the university supervisor continues in force until terminated by the order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Investigators and university supervisors are protected against personal liability.

The kernel of the bill is contained in the latter sections, which provide for the creation and the mandate of the university supervisor.

9:30 p.m.

As members will know from their careful reading of this legislation and from a cursory examination or perhaps a more thorough examination of the minister's statement to the standing committee on social development, to which the bill was referred last September, it is the intention of the government by dint of this legislation, as the minister would argue, to better manage the transfer payments the provincial Treasury allocates to the university community. This year the government will transfer to the universities something in the order of \$1.125 billion, if I am correct. If I am incorrect, I am sure my friend the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) will correct me.

We have before us a bill that has some acceptable components. On previous occasions I have indicated my willingness to support the minister in her very understandable and justifiable desire to better understand the way in which the universities that receive this \$1-billion transfer spend those funds.

I think the minister has made a case, one that is justifiable, for improving the reporting mechanism, though we did hear in the committee that there was a willingness on all sides, quite apart from this legislation, to provide the government generally and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities particularly with any information they would request. Quite frankly, there seems to be some confusion as to what it is the government wants in terms of information that it has not yet received.

We last dealt with this bill late in December 1983, late in the session that terminated on the 16th of that month. I remember the date well, because I was returning through the snows of mid-December from the great reaches of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, where my friend the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) bested me yet again.

Before leaving for that fateful and fatal day, I remember being told by the minister about the conditions I had set for the speedy passage of Bill 42, and there were three, to quickly cover that ground again.

First, in September I had indicated to the minister that I wanted a clarification of the government's attitude and of the public policy of the present government vis-a-vis accessibility to universities in this province. I see some provincial student leaders in the galleries tonight. They really deserve the credit for this, because my good friend the member for Hamilton West and I were not successful in gleaning from the minister

a revised interpretation of the John Robarts-James Allan-William Davis Ministry of Education version of the commitment.

The student leaders of the province, in a meeting with the minister held some time about mid-November, elicited a very direct, almost dramatic and most helpful elucidation from the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Education (Miss Stephenson) as to precisely what government policy was. It was, as has been reported in the public press, along the lines of the earlier Robarts-Davis commitment. I thanked the minister for that then and I thank her for it again.

The second condition I had set—and I do not want to sound too unilateral, because of course I am not—was that I had asked the minister to address the whole question of the operating grants formula. As the minister knows, there are a number of universities in this province that, having experienced serious deficits in the past two, three or four years, have developed recovery programs that have been and would be still seriously affected by any significant changes to the operating grants formula.

Some universities have made no secret of their recovery strategy, and a number communicated them to me as well as, I am sure, to members of the government. I cannot imagine the universities in the Toronto area not confiding in my friend the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), the parliamentary assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, a man who has keen interest in these matters of higher education. I know the member for High Park-Swansea would have been apprised of the concerns of York University, for example, with respect to its views on any amended operating grants formula. The minister did make some comment about that, but not as complete a comment as I might have expected.

The third point I had set for the consideration of the minister with regard to the speedy passage of Bill 42 had to do with an amendment I introduced that night in October, I believe, striking out those parts of the bill which give the university supervisor created by this legislation anything beyond an advisory role. I do not believe the minister has indicated yet that she is at all prepared to accept that amendment.

At any rate, those were the three conditions I had set for the minister in terms of the passage of Bill 42 through this House.

In fairness to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, she indicated in the later days of that fall session that she was at work on a package or a statement. I do not want to either misstate her

case or misrepresent it, but I think I remember it well enough to say that back in December, when we discussed this bill, sometimes in the presence of the government House leader, the minister indicated she was working on a package or a statement that would appease my concerns—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some of them.

Mr. Conway: Some of them—and make the passage of the bill as smooth as it could possibly be. It is not often the Minister of Colleges and Universities makes that kind of an offer, at least it has not been my experience, although I have not had too many bills with which to test her.

I remember the day and the place well. It was mid-afternoon on December 15. The sun was setting and it was getting very cold. I was in a phone booth at the four corners, I believe, in Winchester Springs. Oh, it was cold. It was election day in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the minister was there almost as often as I, saying—

Mr. Nixon: Was the member not conveying a message from the departed?

Mr. Conway: Yes, as my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk said. I will never forget that front-page story in the *Morrisburg Leader*. I will tell members I thought that was, if nothing else, reminiscent of Mackenzie King. It was quite a thing to say, but different strokes for different folks. I will give the Minister of Colleges and Universities the benefit of that front page. She may not have seen the story, but it was a very interesting revelation that she offered the people of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry late in that campaign.

Mr. Mancini: What did she tell them? Tell us.

Mr. Conway: No, I would prefer not to, under these conditions; but I think the minister should—

Mr. Nixon: I do not think that would be in order.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Conway: I do not think it would be either, actually. It certainly is not unparliamentary, but it is something that struck me as very interesting.

Anyway, I was in a phone booth, I say to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), having spent the morning in Winchester trying to get the Liberal vote out.

Mr. Nixon: Which he did, and he was ready to come home at 9:15.

Mr. Conway: That is why I was available in phone booths in mid-afternoon. I phoned my office and said: "I hear the minister has delivered her package. What is it that will now allow me to

drive back to Toronto tonight, defeated or victorious, to wind up the session and accommodate the minister in her concern?"

It was that day in December 1983 that the minister quite dramatically rose in her place and read a statement of—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not dramatically at all. It was very straightforward.

Mr. Conway: I find the Minister of Education is most often dramatic in her pronouncements. I was not here that day; I will accept her word for it. The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) nods approvingly, but I cannot believe the minister was not both firm and dramatic as she read this 20-page statement in the House. That statement changed dramatically the context of Bill 42 and the debate related to it.

I must give the minister some credit because I have been in this House and in its committees pressing her, sometimes to her discomfiture and to mine, about the nature and extent of her response to her deputy minister's famous report of August 1981. For two and a half years, the Minister of Colleges and Universities publicly said little about what it is and what it was the government of Ontario intended to do in response to the famous Fisher report that I have almost worn out from reading. I invited her, plaintively and pleasantly and a lot in between and otherwise, to set a course as she has done in other policy areas of her imperial mandate, to strike the direction for the future that was called for.

Mr. Sweeney: To do something.

Mr. Conway: As my friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot says, to do something.

Mr. Sweeney: Anything.

Mr. Conway: Not just anything, but certainly to do something. To give the minister credit, she did on that day in December last year rise in her place and for the first time formally react to the challenge set in place some 28 months earlier by her then and still deputy minister, Dr. Harry Fisher et al.

In striking the Bovey commission, or the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario—do I have that right? That is what the order in council says.

Mr. Van Horne: With a little dash of mustard.

Mr. Conway: With a little dash of mustard; I do not know about that. I think that look probably says it better than anything.

The appointment of the Bovey commission was an extremely important appointment by this government and this minister. I do not minimize

the importance of that commission. I have said elsewhere and I will repeat now that I believe this Bovey commission to be quite apart from the traditional government commission. I really think this is a commission unlike other commissions. I might be wrong, but the minister says I am not. It is very important for this Legislature, seized as it is at present of a growing interest in the health and future prospects of our Ontario universities, to monitor very carefully the operations of that commission.

I was disappointed to hear the comment of some who had been joining me for those many months and those years between August 1981 and December 1983 who had asked, along with myself, for some kind of a reaction to the Fisher choices; I was disappointed, and I communicated my disappointment directly to some of my friends in, for example, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, such as Bill Jones, president, a very capable and constructive player in this important business; I was disappointed that some people immediately jumped on the commission and said it was really bad news and it was an example of how the government had failed and surely the minister would want to resign. They certainly gave the impression this was not a commission they wanted much to do with.

I think OCUFA, as it always does, made some very important points in its initial observations but I do think it went too far. I think, having complained about the silence and inactivity, in a public sense, of the government's response to the challenges set out two and a half years ago it is not adequate for any of us to, once an action, however controversial, is taken, to immediately suggest that the minister ought to resign.

I am prepared to give Mr. Bovey and his partners, Messrs. Watts and Mustard, the opportunity to go forward with their very important mandate.

What is that mandate? It is a mandate which materially impacts on Bill 42. Again I say to the minister I do not understand why, given the Bovey commission's mandate, we are here tonight dealing with Bill 42.

Some days ago, I think it was on supply, I indicated to the House my anxiety that the minister might try to return with Bill 42 to seek its passage before the Bovey commission reported by mid-November of this year. I had hoped, from some of the indications I gathered indirectly from the government House leader, the bill might be stood down, as I think it should, until we have the benefit of that commission.

The minister might care to nod or otherwise gesture to indicate a response to what I am going to say, but I heard late this afternoon that the Parrott commission is now going to be folded into the Bovey commission.

Mr. Nixon: The minister has a large repertoire of gestures; would you care to select one?

Mr. Conway: I heard late this afternoon from authoritative sources that much, if not all, of the mandate that Dr. Parrott had to reorganize the university community in northeastern Ontario would now be taken up by the Bovey commission.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not really.

Mr. Conway: The minister says not really.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They cannot really do their job without looking at the Parrott commission.

Mr. Conway: Exactly. The minister, in an aside, said they cannot really do their job without looking at the Parrott commission. I appreciate that intervention. I understand absolutely what she is saying and I could not agree more wholeheartedly. She has never made more sense in her eight and a half years of distinguished parliamentary life here.

9:50 p.m.

I ask the minister, having recognized that Dr. Parrott and his colleagues at the commission looking into the reorganization of the university community in northeastern Ontario cannot do their work without taking account of the Bovey commission, how can she realistically expect this Legislature to enact legislation that will provide this government with very important new powers of intervention with respect to the university community while an extremely important commission is at work reviewing critical components of the university question at this point in Ontario life and history?

I really fail to understand how that should be allowed to happen. I believe we were told by the Minister of Education, and certainly by others who were supporting Bill 42 in the committee stage in the committee hearings back in September, 1983, such as Dr. Matthews, the former chairman of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, the current president of the University of Guelph, that Bill 42 would be a useful signal to the university community.

We were told the bill would set up a clear statement in front of university administrators, student leaders, faculty associations and the community at large that the provincial government, headed by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the

Minister of Education, was simply not going to tolerate a policy of calculated deficit spending by any university or any group of universities in this province.

The minister and her supporters on that committee made it even more clear by stating that while they felt very strongly attached to this new signal, they did not feel any great emergency and, quite frankly, did not expect the bill in its full provisions would have to be often or ever applied.

Therefore, I take the minister at her own word. This bill, as it is currently written, is most helpful and is most useful as a signal to the university community that the minister and the ministry, in the broadest sense of that phrase, are not going to tolerate a premeditated policy of deficit spending at any of the Ontario universities, or at least a policy whereby significant deficits are run up on the ordinary account without any provision being made for their retirement.

The minister knows I was concerned about some of the—

Mr. McClellan: Retirement?

Mr. Conway: Yes, for the benefit of the member for Bellwoods, I did say to the House that the minister and the ministry were apparently concerned, in some cases I think for good reasons, about the apparent desire of some universities to run up significant deficits on their ordinary account with no plan for their ultimate retirement.

A few years ago, one of the universities in the national capital region probably challenged the minister very directly on that particular point.

I will just take the minister back to what she said and what Dr. Matthews indicated in those hearings seven or eight months ago. Basically, they said to the legislative committee and to the community beyond: "We are not happy about this deficit situation. We are not going to tolerate it. This Bill 42 is a clear signal to those in the university community that we are going to take a hardline approach. We do not expect to have to use this legislation in full force soon, often or perhaps ever. However, it certainly will be," we in the committee were told, "a very useful instrument by means of which we can discipline the university community to the realities of the early mid-1980's in which restraint must be the order of the day."

I do not know how many university administrators read the press today to take note of the advertising budget increases in the Ontario government. As the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) and the member for York South

(Mr. Rae) pointed out today, it appears that restraint is a very selective doctrine.

Back to the main point, Mr. Chairman. The minister made it rather clear to the committee in September that this bill does not have great urgency because, more than anything else, we want to get the signal out. There is no question that the very tabling of the bill, its first reading, gave the community a very clear indication and a very clear signal of the ministry's intention.

I did not bring the compendium with me tonight, but the department provided a very useful compendium to Bill 42 in which it set out the surplus and deficit situation of all universities in Ontario as at the end of the 1981-82 fiscal year. A number of our outstanding universities are on that deficit list, and I consider them all to be outstanding. Some of the most notable there are from the northeastern community that Dr. Parrott and his fellow commissioners were looking at, so they have to be separated out in some ways.

The minister will know, and the House should reflect upon, and I know my friend the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) will want to pay particular attention to the fact that the situation has improved substantially in the past 18 months for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the public sector restraint legislation and a more vigorous attitude on the part of most university administrators. They are simply not going to be able to roll up these deficits, whatever the causes, and a number of causes rest with the Ontario government itself.

Not only does the trend line indicate a significant improvement in the deficit situation of Ontario universities, so the message has clearly gone out and there seems to be an attitude of compliance on the part of most, if not all, of the boards of governors and the administrators, but we also have from the ministry itself a statement: "The bill is not urgent. We do not need it just yet; we could certainly do without its enactment for some time to come because really we do not plan to use it often, if ever."

One has to ask, as we did in the committee and I remember particularly the interventions of the government members for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) and for Humber (Mr. Kells) who joined with others in the opposition back in September in wondering why we were enacting something we really did not need because the problem seemed to be correcting itself rather well.

Against all of that backdrop, the minister has now gone forward and struck the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario, the so-called Bovey commission. The

minister's statement, though read in my absence, has captured my attention for many a day since that time in mid-December 1983. I do not know who penned the draft, although I see some very able talent just behind the throne and underneath the press gallery. I can well imagine how some of those mandarins, to use the word in its proper context, could have authored this 20-page document.

It is a very interesting document and I wanted to touch briefly upon some of the highlights of the minister's statement. I think it is extremely important for this Legislature to understand the context in which we now must debate Bill 42. It is a very different context.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I thought we were in clause-by-clause debate.

Mr. Conway: Yes, we are.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Are we not?

The Deputy Chairman: As far as the House is concerned, if the members wish to take it clause by clause, they may.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That's what I thought.

Mr. Conway: We provided the opportunity for the government to—

The Deputy Chairman: Does the member want to go section by section?

Mr. Conway: In a general sense, I am beginning, as I am entitled to do.

The Deputy Chairman: Then I am wide open.

Mr. Conway: That is right, and I intend to make an introductory statement, summarizing the bill and the new context, because there is an extremely different environment in which this Bill 42 now finds itself.

10 p.m.

I say to you, Mr. Chairman, because I have great respect for your insight in these matters, that this statement grew out of our last legislative debate on Bill 42, this statement and this commission, in part at least; it might have had all sorts of other—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You presume too much.

Mr. Conway: I probably do. I only know what I know, and I know.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not enough.

Mr. Conway: As I said the other night in Delhi—oh, I had better not.

Mr. Nixon: Go ahead.

Mr. Conway: I will not. It was a good time the other night in Delhi, I must say to my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps you should complete your thought there.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that the minister told me she would have a statement, a package that would ameliorate my nervous concern about certain aspects of Bill 42, and here it is. I want to review some of its comments because they are indeed important.

I see the minister smiling, undoubtedly at her correspondence.

Mr. Nixon: She has gas.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Never.

Mr. Conway: The minister? Mr. Chairman, please, I would hope the two distinguished members for York Mills and particularly for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk could be kept entirely in parliamentary lines.

Mr. Nixon: We have a new baby at home and he smiles like that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What is his name?

Mr. Nixon: Alexander.

Mr. Conway: The minister in her statement began: "Mr. Speaker, there has been in recent months, and indeed in recent years, a great deal of discussion about the role of universities in today's society and the structure of the university system and the various government policies that have attended the development of the universities in this province over the past two decades." And here was a line I really liked—chutzpah, I think Stephen Lewis would call it: "In recent months, I have intentionally encouraged discussion on these matters."

I must say to the minister she certainly did. I think she perhaps was being a little more or less candid there than might have otherwise been imagined. She certainly did in the summer of 1983, for example, intentionally encourage perhaps more discussion than she ever imagined by saying first: "Well, I do not know. John Robarts, Bill Davis and Jim Allan might have made a commitment about accessibility to a university place in this province to every qualified student, but if he or they did, I cannot find it." It is certainly not clear to me that that really is the government commitment.

Of course, as the minister knows, there was not an editorial penned, from Kenora to Cornwall or from York Mills to Timmins, that was silent on this subject. With those student leaders, some of whom are in this chamber tonight, in mid-November she certainly had a statement to

make after that three-and-a-half month discussion. We have come full circle.

I noted in her statement as well that the minister went on to talk about how in 1959 the Honourable James Allan, Treasurer of Ontario, had stated, "The government's objective was to ensure that no student who has the capacity will be deprived of the opportunity of attending university and of developing his talents to the fullest possible extent."

She went on to quote the Premier (Mr. Davis) in 1965, who said—the minister quoting her colleague the then minister, now Premier: "We probably must now recognize the inevitability of some form of post-secondary education...for all capable of profiting from it."

I certainly appreciated in that statement a recantation of those sacred commitments from her Conservative forebears in that historic portfolio which she now occupies.

She went on talking in the statement about the relationship between government and the universities. She said: "The basis of the government's policy has been in place for many decades. Post-secondary education has developed on the basis of a diversity of institutions rather than on a single institution."

She took us through a recital of the Spinks commission which I thought was both interesting and helpful. She got a little bit revisionist at the bottom of page 4 when she interpreted the following:

"While indicating its preference for the decentralized system in place at the present time, the Committee on the Future Role of Universities in Ontario foresaw"—that is the Fisher group's report—"that government intervention would be needed under certain scenarios." The Fisher group, "indicated a preference in circumstances of financial stringency for a one-time intervention for the purposes of restructuring, followed by a return to a decentralized system of autonomous institutions."

Let me stop there and commend the minister and her staff on a remarkable interpretation, or a remarkable distillation, of what they deemed to be the essential Fisher 1981 conclusion. Extraordinarily, they would have one believe—I should not say they because the minister, as always, would want to accept full responsibility for the statement. She would unbelievably expect people to believe the justification for significant intervention in the university community can be found in the Fisher group's final report in August 1981.

It is true Fisher et al in their final report imagined a situation, particularly in chapter 6, of how the government would have to move in and very significantly involve itself with university planning on a one-time basis.

When I look at the terms of reference for this commission, I cannot help but believe the Bovey mandate is chapter VII, section 6.0, of the final Fisher report of August 1981. Let me read section 6.0 from *The Alternative: A Restructured System*, so the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) and the Minister of Education can better understand what I intend when I suggest there is a very good case to link the Bovey mandate with that final chapter in the Fisher report of August 1981.

It says: "If funding throughout the decade"—of the 1980s—"is not at the level recommended by the committee in section 2.1 above..." Members will recall it was suggested in that section of the report that if the Ontario government wanted to sustain the university infrastructure it had built, meeting the five objectives which had been struck and which were continually endorsed by the government for the university system, the financial—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In its current state and without any modification.

Mr. Conway: Let me repeat. My understanding of the Fisher interpretation is that it said if the government of Ontario wanted to maintain the university infrastructure in the current state that had been developed so very well by our friend from Brampton and his predecessor from London North and others back almost to Dr. Ryerson, and if it was going to meet the objectives set for the universities and reinforced in recent months, the funding mechanism and the funding levels would have to be at inflation for at least five years, from 1981 through 1986. This report was finalized in 1981. There would be a capital allowance of \$25 million annually to the system for each of those five years.

10:10 p.m.

That level of funding would be required to sustain the system that was in place when the committee was finalizing its report in 1981. That is what is being talked of here when the committee states in its chapter VII:

"If funding throughout the decade is not at the level recommended by the committee in section 2.1 above, but at the level suggested by the May 1981 provincial budget, a major restructuring of the current university system will be needed to provide the best that can be obtained with the available funding."

There is a rather sorrowful, almost defeatist tone to that last sentence.

"This major restructuring would necessitate legislative action, including these or other measures: reducing the number of universities; changing the character of some or all of the universities, and limiting their range of activities; and grouping universities in two or more categories with different missions.

"The degree to which each of these measures will be required is a complex function of the actual availability of funds and the chosen priority for factors such as geographic accessibility, program range and quality, and level of research desired.

"The following restructured system is proposed:

"Ontario would have one comprehensive university capable of offering a very broad range of high-quality programs at all degree levels. The province would not have more than four full-service universities offering a more restricted range of high-quality programs at all degree levels. Also, the province would have four or five special-purpose institutions, including some designed specifically to serve northern Ontario.

"Of the remaining institutions," chapter VII concludes, "some may have to be closed, and the others, to the extent that the accessibility objective is to be met within total funding limitations, will have to be restructured. These institutions would offer high-quality, undergraduate instruction in arts and science, and perhaps the early years of programs in high demand, such as engineering and business.

"The committee recognizes that the action proposed is drastic. The current problems of the universities are such, however, that if funding continues at the level suggested in the May 1981 Ontario budget, it is urgent that action be taken.

"The detailed advice for the restructuring outlined here should come from an implementation task force which should be established immediately. The task force should consist of five or six knowledgeable people, none currently in the Ontario university system. The task force should outline in detail the new university system, including the role of each institution that remains."

That is the end of chapter VII. I certainly thought about that chapter as I went forward in reading the minister's December 15, 1983, dictum where, I reiterate, she noted:

The Fisher group had recommended "in circumstances of financial stringency a one-time intervention for the purposes of restructuring,

followed by a return to a decentralized system of autonomous institutions.

"The government indicated, in response to [the Fisher report] that measures such as closure of institutions were unacceptable. Following release of the report, discussions took place among the Premier, the university presidents and myself to identify alternative ways of bringing about the kind of rationalization which the committee felt would be necessary under continued conditions of financial restraint."

Then she went on in the statement to talk about the climate of the 1980s and the 1990s. She indicated that the set of objectives struck by the Ontario Council on University Affairs in 1978 continues to be accepted by the government as the mandate the universities in this province have to fulfil. She noted that in the context of that commitment, "These objectives and commitments of the past have served Ontario well." She goes on to say, "We are now in a new era with new challenges and new needs."

It is logical in these times, therefore, to anticipate a reduced demand for undergraduate post-secondary education, in its traditional forms at least. She indicates the federal government—God bless the federal government—is responsible, by dint of the arbitrary removal of the 1977 revenue guarantee and of the imposition of the six and five factor on federal transfers. Ottawa has really created havoc here.

I thought of that the other day when I was reading in a national capital daily that one senior Ontario cabinet minister said, "We really ought to have an election provincially in Ontario in June of this year, because can you imagine having an Ontario election without a federal Liberal government to run against?" I think it was on page 2 of Thursday's Ottawa Citizen. "Senior Ontario cabinet minister says, 'Can you imagine not having a federal Liberal government to run against?'" As long as it is around, and it may be around for a longer time—

Mr. Kolyn: Was he named?

Mr. Conway: Oh, not named. One is never named over there when one is offering insider information about such sensitive things.

Mr. McClellan: Dalton Camp even says that today, too, in the Toronto Sun.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member would be surprised.

Mr. Conway: I am sometimes surprised. Yes, I was very surprised that day in December to read on the front page of the Morrisburg Leader the minister's observations about certain things that

were germane to the writ to be returned on December 15. I will tell the members after we finish. The minister may perhaps have been quoted inaccurately, but it was quite a dramatic statement.

The minister goes on with stating that the government of Ontario places a great priority on the development of its human resources. She talks about the need. "We can no longer afford," she says in her statement, "in economic or social terms to maintain any system of education without more precise targets, more defined directions and more responsive institutions and programs to meet the needs of Ontario."

Then she gets into the specific mandate of the commission. Here is where very important questions arise. To begin with, she indicates and she relies upon some studies done by Professor Peter Leslie, of Queen's University I believe if memory serves me correctly, that the greatest problem facing Canadian higher education is the ageing of the university faculty.

The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), let the record note, says, "Hear, hear."

Mr. Shymko: We are all eager.

Mr. Conway: It is good to see the member for High Park-Swansea and his ministerial supervisors here in the same chamber at the same time.

The minister, in her first statement about the terms of reference of the Bovey commission, says we must consider proposals to deal with the critical question of faculty renewal. "Faculty renewal," she says, "will be a cornerstone of the government's plans for our revitalized system in the 1980s and 1990s." With that, she inflamed the collective passions of every faculty association and faculty member in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: No kidding.

Mr. Conway: I would tell the member for Ottawa Centre that she really did. She began this whole commission's mandate by almost a declaration of war on the faculty associations, which responded almost in kind. I was surprised to read in her statement that the cornerstone of the government's renewed, restructured university system is going to be a process or a mechanism of faculty renewal.

10:20 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is a means to permit it to happen.

Mr. Conway: It is a means to permit it to happen. I find it very interesting because the minister knows this full well, because she had about the same day legislated in that area for educators in the elementary and secondary panel.

I think I am right in saying one of the last bills passed before Christmas was the Teachers' Superannuation Amendment Act. Am I correct in that? I think I am.

I may be incorrect in thinking, as a lot of people think, that the way to achieve faculty renewal, if the minister is concerned about an ageing population in the faculty associations, about an ageing faculty generally, is to provide the financial incentives.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Are you suggesting that is not a possibility? Your imagination is very limited if you are suggesting you do not believe that.

Mr. Conway: The minister is a very able lady and she knows exactly how her words are interpreted or how they might be responded to in the community beyond.

I will not recite or call to mind some of the comments made by the member for York Mills, the Minister of Education, in a recent excursion to the Niagara Peninsula. But when I followed her down to the Niagara and St. Catharines area a few weeks ago, the local press regaled me with accounts of what she had had to say about the problem of an ageing faculty in Ontario. The only person about whom she had more colourful things to say was my colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), about whom—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not recall mentioning that at all.

Mr. Conway: I will get the minister the appropriate references, but she certainly was quoted as saying—and again I stand to be corrected, because I had not intended to touch upon it, not tonight at least—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You have touched on everything else; you might as well touch on that.

Mr. Conway: Well, it is very important because the minister herself indicated in her statement setting the Bovey commission in place that the cornerstone of her reform, her renewal and her restructuring is faculty renewal. I say to the minister that, as someone who legislated in that area for elementary and secondary panels in late December, she knows full well if she wants to deal with creating the process for new blood in the system, the mechanism she will have to develop is essentially a financial one.

She is quite aware, I am sure, of what her choices in that area are. To start her reform, her renewal, her restructuring by stating her cornerstone is going to be this, has, rightly or wrongly, inflamed a lot of the faculty members in this province, has upset those who are not inflamed

and has concerned a variety of people in between.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And I have been cheered by a significant number of faculties.

Mr. Conway: The minister says she has been cheered. The cheerers have not really been battering down my door, but I guess that is no great surprise.

I think it was unfortunate, because I am prepared to give this commission an opportunity to do some of the important work that has to be done.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is magnanimous of you, I must say.

Mr. Conway: I have tried to be magnanimous. I have been more magnanimous on the average than I believe my colleague the member for York Mills has been. When I read what she had to say about the member for St. Catharines in her most recent visit to the peninsula, I was disposed to believe—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I just said he was a dear little boy.

Mr. Conway: Let me bring in that clipping, because it was when I—

Mr. Nixon: How could anybody be critical of Bradley?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Your leader did a good job of describing him, I must say, and this one as well—perhaps not quite as accurate as this one, but pretty close.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Back to the bill.

Mr. Nixon: Opposition makes strange bedfellows.

Mr. Conway: There are days when I am not unhappy that the minister did not run for us in 1975, but those days are few and far between.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am certainly glad to know that, and it was not 1975; it was 1971.

Mr. Nixon: Or even earlier. She was just a girl.

Mr. Conway: The admission leaks out.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I had no intention of doing it. It was your enticement.

Mr. Nixon: Ah, she was the only girl who ever turned me down.

Mr. Conway: I say to the minister I think she set back her own cause by the phraseology and the prominence she gave to that faculty renewal cornerstone in her mandate. I invite her to try, wherever possible, to tone down some of the rhetoric that has upset a very important part of the university community in this province.

I want to reiterate this because it is important. She said in her opening statement setting this commission in place: "The government sees a need to appoint a commission to produce a detailed operational plan to effect changes in the university system to address these issues."

I say to the rest of the assembly we would do well to monitor carefully the developments of the Bovey commission, because it is a commission of extraordinary importance and one I suspect is going to have some very critically important things to say for each and every citizen in Ontario.

The minister went on to talk about her desire to have the commissioners look at ways and means of differentiating the system to avoid costly, needless duplication. That is given to the commissioners as an important part of their mandate.

The minister said: "I believe the universities of tomorrow should have a more clearly defined, different and distinctive role. Each one of those should assume a character and a structure which is consistent and compatible with that role. I also believe this plan for tomorrow can be accomplished without reducing the number of universities in Ontario, although fundamental changes may be necessary to some or to all of the institutions. Each university cannot aspire to universality."

I ask members to reflect upon that term of reference and to connect it to the last paragraphs of chapter VI in the Fisher report. It is almost a direct linkage and one I note on that account.

The minister indicated as well in her terms of reference to the commissioners that they are to look at not only a differentiated university system but also a system whereby there can be established "highly specialized, designated-purpose institutes through co-operative involvement of the universities and the business sector...The commission will consider the designation of specific universities as centres of specialization with a view to preserving and developing further a calibre of teaching and research that is characteristic of those that play a pivotal role in Canada with their international reputations."

It was in that connection that I was quite struck to hear the minister take her place in statements on Friday, April 13, 1984, and announce, happily for my friends at the University of Waterloo, a \$31-million capital grant over four years to the University of Waterloo towards the construction and alteration of facilities for the Institute of Computer Research.

Mr. McClellan: Pull the plug. Time.

Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Bellwoods calls my attention to the time, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chairman: It might be an appropriate time—

Mr. Conway: —and I always do as the member for Bellwoods suggests. On that good advice, and reminding the minister that when we return to this debate I will want to expand upon

the mandate she struck for this commission and to look specifically at how it will impact, and is currently impacting, upon the provisions of Bill 42, I will adjourn the debate.

Mr. Chairman: There is no need to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Hon. Miss Stephenson, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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R 8

No. 30

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Friday, April 27, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 27, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

BUDGET DATE

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise this House that I will present the 1984 budget on Tuesday, May 15, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

For the edification of the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), I should point out that last year's budget was presented on May 10, and it was announced on April 21. This year we are announcing on April 27 that the budget will be presented on May 15, which is one day fewer than was the case last year. So much for the honourable member's paranoia.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We have had the federal budget for two months.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Does the member not wish Marc had taken this much time to do his budget? Does he not see the problem with rushing it?

ONTARIO FIRE CODE AMENDMENT

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of inquiries from local members, church groups and members of the Legislature on the following matter. I would like to inform the House of our intention to amend a provision in the Ontario Fire Code that has been a source of some concern to church congregations around the province.

Ontario regulation 251/83 requires retrofitting of existing assembly buildings, including halls in religious establishments other than those used for worship. In explanation, it is not the worship area that needs to upgrade for the level of fire safety. This could involve such things as fire alarm and detection systems, installation of adequate means of egress, provision of exit lights and enclosure of furnaces.

The cost to some congregations of retrofitting at this time could be a problem because of the lack of knowledge in the church community of the changes in regard to retrofitting. To provide relief for these churches, many of which face serious financial pressures, we intend to amend

the fire code so that a one-year extension, to April 29, 1985, will automatically apply to all churches, without requiring the approval of the local fire chief. Further legislated exemptions after the new compliance date, as granted by the local fire chief, will still apply.

I have asked the fire marshal to work closely in the coming weeks and months with the church community and with local fire departments to make them aware of the fire code provisions and the retrofit provisions. The church officials we have spoken with recognize that upgrading of fire safety standards is necessary. Many have already made the required improvements, and we are sure this adjustment to the regulations will provide the needed time for all concerned to achieve this goal.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRUST COMPANIES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I have a question for the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If you expect a legal answer, you will not get it.

Mr. Peterson: No, I do not expect a legal answer, and I would never ask the Premier for one of those.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Nixon: Is the Premier not learned in the law? Is he not one of the Queen's Counsel?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I would like to ask the Premier about the trust companies affair. As he knows, a police investigation has been going on for at least a year and a half. Will the Premier bring this House up to date on the status of that investigation? Is there an intention or indication that criminal charges will be laid in that matter?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to get the information to update the honourable member. I am not sure that the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) probably would not be the more appropriate person to ask whether he has any information. I cannot help the Leader of the Opposition, but I will certainly find out. The Solicitor General may or may not be in a position to add something.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to redirect?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, when investigations are ongoing—and the Attorney General would answer the question the same way—as we progress with investigations and as the information becomes available, naturally if the information warrants the laying of criminal charges, they will be laid. But at this time I can give no indication to this Legislature as to the advance or the exact status of that investigation, because it is ongoing and proceeding.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General will no doubt be aware of an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court of Ontario on March 12 by one Ben Axelrod. He says under oath in his affidavit that Greymac had assured him the \$500,000 fee would guarantee a rapid cabinet decision. He goes on to say that the \$500,000 fee would be used in part to retain public relations consultants to lobby cabinet members. He also says that a Mr. David Cowper had become a senior executive of Greymac Trust and that Mr. Cowper was well known in Progressive Conservative Party circles and would assist in obtaining an early decision from cabinet.

The Solicitor General, who is learned in the law, will be aware that holding out the prospect of influencing cabinet decisions or governmental decisions for consideration is a clear violation of the Criminal Code of Canada, section 110.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Will the Solicitor General report to this House on whether there is an investigation into these serious allegations made under oath by Mr. Axelrod?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: As the honourable member is aware, knowing the rules of the House and knowing the degrees of concern he might have in regard to an ongoing investigation, there are many situations where I am not at liberty to comment in this Legislature on the exact details of ongoing investigations. However, in regard to his question, I shall investigate the status of the questions he has asked, and if I feel I can comment on them I will so do.

It is a very difficult position to be in as a cabinet minister in this regard because of the nature of and the confidentiality required in ongoing investigations, and I am sure the member recognizes that. But I will try to accommodate him with his questions if it is at all possible.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Peterson: Because the directors' activities are one of the areas that need investigation when one looks at the trust companies affair, will the minister, when investigating the behaviour of the various directors of the various companies, also canvass his cabinet colleagues to determine whether any solicitations for special advantage or favour were made by those people?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I would not even bother making a request of that nature. I know it would not be done. I know my cabinet colleagues would not be approached in that way. The question was obviously asked rhetorically. I do not believe I will be following up on that request in the way I will be trying to assist the member on the other questions.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have question for the Minister of Education.

I wonder whether the minister is aware of the appalling conditions which are reported to exist at High Park School in Pelham, which have been described in a front-page story in the St. Catharines Standard as "a litany of dashed hopes, broken promises and unpaid bills and wages."

A school employee has stated that discipline is "the worst," adding that "no authority remains at the school." A former teacher, who quit recently after several broken promises of reimbursement for bouncing paycheques, said, "Students are really suffering the most through all of this." A student has revealed: "The laundry doesn't work. Our sheets haven't been changed in weeks. The toilet paper is always scarce. There are no paper towels. The place is not kept clean. The only thing that keeps me here is the hope of getting my credits."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Bradley: Is the minister now aware of all that? If so, what swift and immediate action is she prepared to take to clean house at High Park School in Pelham?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has named the school without stating clearly that this is a private school, one which I gather has been in business for approximately three years but which has a history of relationship with another private school catering to the needs of private visa students at the levels of grades 12 and 13 primarily.

We have been aware of concerns expressed about that school, and the school has been inspected. The area for which we have legislative authority and for which we can exercise some

scrutiny and authority is curriculum content. It is my understanding that the curriculum content has been more than adequate and that the teaching has been satisfactory.

The concerns that have been expressed about the possibility that the students might not be able to complete their year have also been looked at by a member of our staff. It is my understanding that the other schools with the same mandate in the private sector have suggested they would be willing to accommodate such students if that circumstance were to come about.

However, I remind the member that this is a private business and not a public school supported by tax funds over which I might have and might be able to exercise some direct authority.

Mr. Bradley: I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that I could have directed the question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) or the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) as well, both of whom would have an interest in this. However, I have a supplementary question for the minister.

As a member of a government that likes to perpetuate the myth of great financial management in this province and is entrusted to protect the people of this province from the kind of questionable practices that are obviously going on at High Park School in Pelham, how can the minister justify allowing Patrick Joseph O'Connor, sometimes called John Stanley, whose various schools have been in difficulty with her ministry and whose past operation of such private schools has been far from acceptable, to establish and run an operation in Pelham? What does this say about the regulatory practices of the government of which she is a part?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As far as I am able to understand, the suggestion about the good management practice of this government is no myth; it is a fact of life which is understood by everybody in this province except the members opposite.

We have supervised appropriately the area for which we have responsibility. There are difficult circumstances in this instance, but as a result of the mediation efforts of members of our staff, unfortunate circumstances in the past have been overcome for the benefit of the students; that is our primary concern and responsibility.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, all of us would agree that the conditions at High Park School are far from admirable; indeed, they are very distressing. I wonder whether the minister's remark that this is a private business and not a public matter does justice to the situation of private schools in

this province. There is a responsibility for inspection the minister has referred to, and I wonder whether her powers are not fairly considerable in that respect.

I ask the minister whether she will consult with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and with the Minister of Labour, since both ministries are touched by this issue, to get to the bottom of this problem and to rectify matters in that school.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the member for Hamilton West is demonstrating clearly the thesis supported by his leader. It is unfortunate that he obviously did not understand what I said. What I said was that we have responsibility for the educational activity carried on in that institution, for supervision to ensure that this school follows the curriculum of the school system of Ontario.

I did not say it was not a public matter. I said I have no authority for other than the supervision of the curriculum in that establishment to ensure those students are provided with a curriculum that will allow them to receive a secondary school graduation diploma from this province.

My colleagues the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Minister of Labour are aware of this situation at the present time, and I know they are looking at the matters that concern their areas of responsibility.

Mr. Bradley: The minister may remember an article that appeared in the Friday, July 10, 1981, issue of the *Globe and Mail*. It was some investigative reporting on the principal person in this. This investigative article stated, "No school owner was criticized more by students, teachers and former business partners than Patrick Joseph O'Connor."

Since former and present employees have seen more bounces in their paycheques than the Boston Celtics—the Premier (Mr. Davis), being a sports enthusiast, would understand that—what guarantee will the minister give that these employees will be fully compensated for their services? What guarantee will she give that students will get far more for their \$10,000 prepaid annual tuition fee than closet-like cubicles for living space, a severe shortage of learning materials and disrupted classes in the wake of a staff upheaval caused by walkouts and resignations over the pay issue?

In conjunction with her colleagues the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Minister of Labour, what guarantee is the minister going to give these people?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is interesting that in spite of the articles in the *Globe and Mail* on the date registered by the member, and in spite of the fact that information was transmitted to those responsible in that community for the leasing of that school, the community and the area embraced and accepted the school and its owner with enthusiasm at the time it was begun. We had provided background information through various sources to those who were responsible. Their decision was that the school should be established using an unused school in that area.

I do not have any authority to give guarantees of the kind the member is suggesting. I will give the guarantee that I shall work with my two colleagues to ensure the required and appropriate needs of those who are currently functioning in that school are met. We certainly try to ensure that the students are not being shortchanged as far as their learning experience is concerned in toto, in the area of the curriculum at any rate.

10:20 a.m.

I cannot guarantee their living accommodation, nor can I guarantee the other suggestions the member is making, because the teachers in that school do not fall under the aegis of the Education Relations Commission or under the validity of the bill that guides teacher-board negotiations.

Mr. Bradley: The minister was asleep at the switch again.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We were not.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. Has he any statement to make to the House about the circumstances surrounding the arrest, detention and subsequent discharge of William Franklin Baker on April 24, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* on April 25 by Zuhair Kashmeri?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as reported in the news media this morning, Police Chief Gordon Torrance of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police has asked the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate the method and manner of obtaining the confession that was to be used in the trial of the matter. The OPP has commenced that investigation as to the manner and method of obtaining that confession, which I believe was one of some controversy and which appeared in the news article.

With the co-operation of Chief Torrance and upon his request, we will initiate that investigation. As it progresses and when it is completed, I will be able to consult this House and explain the

background to it, subject to the qualification that the office of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) will be reviewing what it has done on the matter in regard to crown attorneys.

Mr. Renwick: The Solicitor General will no doubt be aware of section 59 of the Police Act, which falls under the administration of the Solicitor General. It states:

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct the Ontario Police Commission to inquire into and report to the Lieutenant Governor in Council about any matter relating to,

"(a) the extent, investigation or control of crime; or

"(b) the enforcement of law,

"and the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall define the scope of the inquiry in the direction."

The provisions of the Public Inquiries Act would apply there.

Given the circumstances, as reported, of the detention for a period of more than four months and of the evidence that was given, as reported in the press, at the preliminary hearing in the matter; given the statements made by William Franklin Baker with respect to the circumstances surrounding the question of the confession, to which the assistant crown attorney referred as "having reason to doubt the veracity of the confession"; given the overtones of racial concern expressed by Donald Baker, the father of the young man; given the expense to which the father, Donald Baker, was put to in order to prove the innocence of his son and the totally inadequate explanation given in the courtroom by the assistant crown attorney; given all those circumstances, does the Solicitor General, in conjunction with his colleague the Attorney General, not believe he should now request the cabinet through the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint the Ontario Police Commission to hold the kind of public open inquiry into this matter to the extent permitted by the Police Act as specifically provided in section 59?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Given all those circumstances the honourable member has mentioned; given the feature about them that has appeared as a result of one newspaper article, and given that it is fresh and that I have not had the opportunity, nor have the Ontario Provincial Police or the Ontario Police Commission, which is asking for a report on it, or the Attorney General to assess other than the one newspaper article and some preliminary reports, I am sure the member would agree it would be a little premature to embark on a public inquiry.

We will wait until such time as I have a more complete picture of the background and circumstances and have been able to consult the Attorney General and my cabinet colleagues on whether a public inquiry would be warranted in this situation.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the minister is no doubt aware the charges against this young man have been withdrawn. His father went to considerable expense to clear his name. Will the minister at the very least give an undertaking in this House today that all legal costs, having been borne through legal aid and by the young man's father, along with the cost of the investigation and the hiring of the private detective that was necessary in order to clear his name, will be fully paid by Ontario?

If this is done it will help his family, which has already gone through the four-month incarceration period, along with the difficulty that the young man is now facing in his own attitude towards the judicial system. Will the minister make that commitment to the House today?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot make that commitment to the House. I think the same feature applies to the honourable member's question as to that of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). It is too premature at this time to make any assessment or make those commitments.

I know the Attorney General is also studying, reviewing and considering some method of compensation to individuals who have gone through the court procedure. That procedure has not been completed. At this time, I cannot give the commitment the member is requesting.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, as the Solicitor General will know, the case points up the problem of threatening, intimidating and, indeed, brutal methods of interrogation by police. In this manner of proceeding in Hamilton they elicited not just one false confession from the suspect himself but two pieces of serious misinformation which apparently prejudiced his circumstances.

Hamilton, of course, has had great respect for its police force and a great deal of confidence in its methods and efficiency. Will the Solicitor General, on behalf of the Attorney General, stand in this House and assure us once more that such methods of interrogation, which yield such false results, will not be tolerated in this province?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as the member has said, and as the elected representative responsible for answering in this Legislature

for the police in this province, I too would not tolerate that style of interrogation or any style of interrogation that would warrant a confession or any other evidence obtained in that manner. Obtaining evidence in that manner is just as repulsive to myself and to the police community as it is to the member, if this is accurate and it has been obtained in that way.

Indeed, there are prescribed techniques and there are laws developed over a historical pattern as to how evidence is obtained for use in trials. All members of this Legislature, as well as the police community, crown attorneys, the Attorney General's department and the judicial system, safeguard that manner and method of obtaining evidence and would find it just as repulsive if an unusual or unwarranted manner were used.

In regard to compensation, I am sure the Attorney General will be considering compensation if it is warranted in the situation. We have discussed previously the manner of obtaining evidence; whether it should be videotaped or whether changes in methods should be made.

Those things are also being discussed by this ministry and by the Attorney General with the federal jurisdiction as to safeguarding all participants, the accused, the witnesses and the police. All of these things are being considered. If there can be any improvement on the manner or method of obtaining confessions or evidence for trials, we will look into that to be improved upon.

PACKAGING MATERIALS

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. No doubt he has seen the press reports yesterday afternoon and this morning, speculating about a cabinet decision on the introduction of new containers for a number of products in the province.

Can he confirm for the House whether or not there was a cabinet decision regarding the introduction of new packaging, including aluminum and plastic, starting next year? If that decision was made, is the minister prepared to table the details of that decision here in the House?

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the honourable member. I am aware there was a headline story in the Hamilton Spectator with respect to the whole issue of bottles and cans. At this time, I can only share with the member the fact that the matter is still before cabinet. It still has not been completely resolved. At this time, I am not in a position to

release the details of a policy which cabinet has not finalized.

Mr. Charlton: Whether or not the policy is totally finalized, there was some speculation in the press stories which seem to provide a fair bit of detail that must have come from somewhere. Can the minister confirm that part of the approach which is being taken is to allow the introduction of aluminum and plastic? The minister is well aware of the health concerns about both of those products, as well as the concerns about the inability to properly recycle plastics.

Can the minister also confirm that part of what is being considered is an approach which will allow industries to promise to reach a point of 70 per cent recovery of their products after four or five years? The minister is fully aware that without a province-wide, curbside, multiproduct recycling system in this province those kinds of goals can never be met.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The member is raising many of the complexities which are involved in the whole issue of bottles and cans, such as the question of new containers and the question of recycling. All of these facts and issues are ones which are being very carefully reviewed by cabinet.

Again, I can only say I cannot confirm the numbers in the Spectator story which the member is repeating again this morning. I can only tell him the matter still has not been resolved or finalized. Therefore, it would be totally premature and inappropriate for me to comment on a specific item, such as the percentage of recycling which was mentioned, since it has not been decided by cabinet.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the New Democratic Party has flip-flopped on this particular position, in view of the fact that in the past it has supported the—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Copps: I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment quite specifically—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not talk about flip-flops.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It must be a disease.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please resume her seat? Order.

Ms. Copps: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You can understand—

Mr. Peterson: Who said this was the dullest session? There is nothing dull about this session.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You have embarrassed your leader.

Mr. Speaker: Not quite. Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Why does your leader not give Hamilton West any priority, Sheila?

Mr. Speaker: It is not your turn. The member for Hamilton Centre.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How is John's campaign?

Ms. Copps: Thank you. John's campaign is going far better—

Mr. Speaker: Never mind that. Question, please.

Ms. Copps: —than Bill's was.

Interjections.

Ms. Copps: Just to make sure the Premier (Mr. Davis) heard that, John's campaign is going far better than Bill's was.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, you can understand how disturbing it is for the people in Hamilton-Wentworth, who are extremely concerned and have been waiting for a decision on this critical issue for a number of months, to have information leaking out in dribs and drabs.

Did I understand the minister to say today there has been no decision made on the issue? If there has been no decision made, can he tell us when his government will finally take a position on an issue which is critical to the steel industry in this province?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the critical nature of the decision and the fact it is critical is the reason for the very long, detailed and, I might add, sensitive review which is being made by cabinet. We are looking at the issue with a view to bringing in a policy and changing regulations to benefit the people of Ontario.

I can only tell the members we will make the decision and bring it before this House at the earliest opportunity. However, if the member's main concern is the residents of the city of Hamilton, I can tell her their views and their positions on the issue have been brought to the attention of the Premier and myself.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult to answer the question while the honourable member is shrieking on a constant basis.

Mr. Speaker: I think you have answered it very well. We will entertain a final supplementary.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the minister says they are carefully taking into consideration, or have heard, the concerns of the citizens of Hamilton. That is not the feeling there this morning. In talking with a number of my colleagues, the comments are that this government is supposed to be interested in job security, but it has created a tremendous amount of insecurity for some 600 steelworkers, a large number of glass workers and a number of brewery workers as well.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can the minister tell us if the jobs of these workers and the numbers involved will be one of the considerations? When he is considering those jobs, will he understand that any airy-fairy five-year or six-year program of 70 per cent recycling will mean the jobs are down the drain and will not be replaced with other jobs?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the kind of sanctimonious pleadings that we get from the other side on a speculative story are really a little bit upsetting. We are obviously talking about a leak of some kind that appeared in a newspaper, which I am not prepared to comment on in detail. I have indicated—

Ms. Copps: A leak? Was it a leak?

Mr. Mackenzie: You are talking about another Tory joke that means hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Is shouting going to resolve the issue?

Mr. Mackenzie: No. You are certainly not resolving it. When are you going to start speaking for the workers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat? Now, back to the original supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I have to repeat, the matter is before cabinet. It has not been resolved and I am not in a position to release the details of the policy at this time.

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

On April 13, when my leader charged that students entering post-secondary education institutions relied on the luck of the draw if the program they selected was oversubscribed, he was accused of generalizing the entire system. That statement was repeated on April 18.

I was recently made aware of a student who has completed her second year in the forestry and

wildlife program at community college in Sault Ste. Marie with an average of more than 80 per cent. She is currently 11th on a waiting list to enter her third year of the program.

On investigation, I was advised that 70-odd students were qualified to enter the third year of the program, which would accept only 15. Marks played no part in the selection procedure; rather students, regardless of whether their marks were high enough to enter, were put on a random computer selection.

How widespread is this random computer selection in our community colleges?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is used in limited-enrolment courses as a final resort when all the qualification criteria have been met by a larger number of students than there are places for students.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, all the time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not used all the time and it is not used in all courses. I am informed by the colleges that the use is limited specifically to that kind of circumstance, which makes up a minority of the admissions to programs within the colleges.

Mr. Van Horne: It certainly seems unusual that people would spend two years in a program, do very well in it, and then find out that they cannot get into the third year.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

10:40 a.m.

Mr. Van Horne: What remedial action is the minister going to take to ensure that students such as the one I have brought to her attention, who have been accepted and who have done very well in the first two years, can carry on with their program and not have to wait for the luck of the draw?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I shall investigate the circumstance brought to my attention by the honourable member.

REBATES FROM ILLEGAL RENTS

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Once again it is about illegal rents.

Yesterday the minister announced that the Residential Tenancy Commission had approved rebates from illegal rents for the nine months of 1983 in the amount of \$800,000 which, annualized, is going to be in excess of \$1 million for the last year. That indicates the government is not enforcing its own legislation and that illegal rents are widespread. People are applying for rebates

against, if I may say so, crimes that have been committed. There is no preventive enforcement against illegal rents.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. McClellan: Given that the minister promised on March 29 that the report of the Thom commission would be available by the end of April, and Monday is the last working day of the month of April, can he tell us if he has received the Thom commission report dealing with this matter, which was so urgent a year and a half ago that he asked it to give him interim reports?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as the member knows full well, the government and the minister cannot set the timetable for a commissioner in an inquiry of that sort.

Mr. McClellan: I do not know that at all.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Let us not be silly.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Let us at least show some common sense as we discuss issues. If the member wants to talk silly, let him go somewhere else. I understood we were here to talk serious talk. The serious talk is that the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) is finally listening. He has his earplug in and he is hearing everything that is going on. Welcome aboard. It is nice to have him. He is having the same problem I have—the hearing is going. Is that it?

Mr. Renwick: Where is that other silly place we can go to?

Mr. Speaker: Now for the answer.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I understand that part 1 and part 2 of the Thom report are in the hands of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) for printing purposes. I understand they should be available forthwith.

To make the record very clear, as the member knows and as we discussed in late December, I did have part 1, which dealt with three chapters of it. He, I and the Liberal critic agreed it would be more useful for this assembly and for the public to review a larger report than that small segment of it. That is the reason part 1 has not been tabled in this House, but I understand the two parts will be available shortly. I want to be clear that I do not direct the timetable of a commissioner of inquiry.

Mr. McClellan: The only lesson I have learned is not to have conversations with the minister without witnesses present.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I ask the member to withdraw that comment.

Mr. McClellan: I have no intention of withdrawing it. By way of supplementary, and since I do not see anything strange about putting—

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I ask the member to withdraw the imputation in that remark, please.

Mr. McClellan: What imputation? That the minister cannot be trusted?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: He knows the imputation. If he does not, he should go back to school.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member please withdraw the remark he made.

Mr. McClellan: There is nothing to withdraw. I just said it and I meant it. I do not intend to have another conversation with that minister without witnesses present.

Mr. Speaker: You made a clear imputation.

Mr. McClellan: We were talking about a report coming in January 1984.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member please withdraw his remark.

Mr. McClellan: There is nothing to withdraw. I did not accuse him of anything.

Mr. Speaker: I think there is and I am not going to argue about it.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: If the member thinks I am deliberately attempting to mislead, he has a problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order. For the last time, I ask the member to please withdraw that remark.

Mr. McClellan: Out of respect to you, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the comment.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. McClellan: I do not see anything strange about asking a royal commissioner to adhere to some timetable since this is a matter of considerable urgency and was so a year and a half ago.

In the light of the information the minister provided to the public yesterday, which indicates the issue of retroactivity with respect to illegal rents is becoming more and more of a problem the longer he drags his heels in establishing a rent registry, can I have some commitment as to when he intends to bring in legislation that will address the urgent problems he identified a year and a half ago? Secondly, does he intend to bring in some enforcement mechanisms which will include the principle of retroactivity against the

thousands of illegal rents being charged across this province?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, out of respect for you I will respond to the question.

I would confirm that the report issued yesterday by the ministry with respect to rent rebates would be part of any annual report. There is nothing particularly significant about that except to point out to the public that there is a methodology in place now by which any rent rebate, in the event of an illegal increase, can be obtained. The method and the process are there now.

What the government will do when it receives the report of the royal commissioner will be determined by the government and the caucus of this government and then those recommendations will proceed in the usual way.

FARM ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He is aware that the dreams of the once prosperous family farm in Ontario have now turned into nightmares in many areas such as beef, hog and cash crop farming. Will he now admit that the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program has not been successful in saving these farms? With the budget coming up on May 15, will he come up with new plans to assist another industry which is now in dire straits: the family farm and the tobacco industry? Their planting time is coming up soon. Will the minister revamp the program so they can have access to money at interest rates at which they can survive? They certainly cannot survive with interest rates they have had to deal with at 16 per cent and 20 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Will the minister give this serious consideration?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I would argue the contrary with respect to the farm adjustment assistance program. It has been of quite measurable assistance to hundreds and indeed thousands of family farms in giving people a second and in some cases a third chance over the course of the last three calendar years.

Mr. G. I. Miller: The farmers in my area—

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The honourable member will be able to go through his counties and find a number of farmers who are in business today because of OFAAP. We have helped many farmers bridge these last several difficult years.

The total number of farmers in the province who have been on or are on OFAAP is close to 4,000. That is a considerable number of farmers who have been assisted.

The member will know—if not, I will send him a copy of the proposal—that at the last annual meeting of agriculture ministers we offered the federal government our participation in what is known as an agribond program. There are many ways of doing that. I am not going to get into arguments about whether one way is better than another. This would facilitate the provision of long-term capital to the farm community at much more reasonable rates than is currently the case.

To date, the federal government has not responded to that proposal. It has the support of the federal Minister of Agriculture, but apparently the federal cabinet has not yet seen fit to support such a policy or to enter into meaningful discussions with this province or any other province about such a program. That remains our policy and our commitment.

I recognize as much as the member does that the cost of long-term credit is a serious problem. Witness the fact that the Farm Credit Corp.—you will notice I did not say “furthermore,” Mr. Speaker—has recently increased its rates even beyond the rates the banks are charging.

Mr. Speaker: I think you have answered the specific question.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the argument is whether or not OFAAP is effective. I would say it was effective in the past, but it is not effective today. Three years ago interest rates were about 23 per cent, but farm land was rising in value at about 13 per cent, which gave a misery index of 10. Today farm land is going down in value at about 15 per cent a year, interest rates are roughly 15 per cent, and the misery rate is 30 per cent.

How are farmers of all descriptions, whether in tobacco, beef, cash crop or whatever, going to survive with that misery rate unless the minister can bring in some short-term measures, for instance, bringing down the triggering point to eight per cent in the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program? How are they going to survive unless the minister takes that immediate short-term step to bridge further the present circumstances?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as the member will recall, there are three options under OFAAP. The problem over the last 15 months has been not so much under option B, which deals with interest rate rebates, but rather under

option C, which has to do with operating credit guarantees. That is where the program has been particularly helpful over the last 15 months, although we have left options A and B in place. Depending on what happens to interest rates, whether the Bank of Canada rate and therefore the prime rate moves up steadily, that could be used much more heavily than in the last 15 months or perhaps as heavily as it was used in calendar year 1982.

I have been meeting with all the banks—I am about halfway through those meetings—discussing with them the current agricultural credit situation and indicating to them we are looking at OFAAP to see what should be done with the program beyond 1984, whether it should be allowed to run out—I have not found that option to have much support, even among the lenders—whether it should be continued as is, or whether we should be looking at some completely new program. We are very much aware of the kinds of problems the member indicates, and we are now, eight months ahead of the deadline of the expiration of the present program, looking at what should be done beyond it.

RIGHTS OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). It relates to the rights of patients to medical records. I am sure the minister is aware of a fellow by the name of Mr. Mariani, who has been in chronic care in Queen Elizabeth Hospital for two and a half years suffering from multiple sclerosis. On Monday of this week he was discharged by the hospital and he has been sitting in his wheelchair in the hospital foyer.

Since I am sure the minister is aware of this particular case, I want to ask what rights this patient has and what protection he has against an arbitrary decision by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to discharge him on the grounds that he does not require that level of care. Does Mr. Mariani have the right to see the medical assessment that resulted in his discharge? Does he have the right to challenge that medical assessment by getting an independent medical opinion from a doctor who is not on the staff of the hospital?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I do have—

Mr. Speaker: Just before you proceed, I would ask your colleagues please to limit their private conversations so I may have the benefit of the answer as well.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Unfortunately, I am not aware of the particular case the member has

mentioned to me. I believe there are rights outlined in legislation that protect the interest of an individual in terms of a psychiatric assessment or an assessment associated with holding him against his will. I hesitate to answer the member's specific question without knowing the details of the case he is referring to, but I will pass along his concern in this matter to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Grande: It surprises me that the minister responsible is not aware of the case, but I guess I accept what he says. I would like to say to the minister this patient has been in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for three days and three nights now. He has been sleeping in his wheelchair. He is not being looked after. No care whatsoever is being given to him.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Grande: Will the minister use his good offices and those of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and of the Minister of Health to make sure the immediate needs of that individual are looked after in a public hospital in this province?

After that takes place, will he please put in place the recommendation of the Krever commission many years ago which said, "A patient should have the right of access to medical records that affect his health," get the board of that hospital to produce the assessment upon which the discharge took place, and then say to the hospital this patient ought to have the right to an independent medical assessment to challenge the opinion of the hospital staff, if it needs to be challenged?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: As the member well knows, the patient is not within my control. I do have some jurisdiction in the area of the recommendations of the Krever commission and in dealing with the Krever report. As the member suggested, I will use my good offices to do whatever I can in this situation.

SURNAMES OF CHILDREN

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister will be aware that the Uniform Law Conference of Canada has recently recommended that the Vital Statistics Act be changed to permit the surname of either parent or both to be given to a child. The minister will also recall that in the last session I introduced a bill to do substantially the same thing. Can he now indicate to this House when he intends to modernize this particularly archaic law?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at estimates in December, that is an issue we have

been pursuing with great interest. I happen to think it is a very important public policy issue, as the member does. I expect very shortly to be bringing a policy paper before my colleagues for discussion. If that is approved, I expect we can proceed very quickly.

Mr. Boudria: This is not a very complex issue. I wonder why it will have to be hashed around for so long, with so many discussion papers and so forth, before anything is done.

The minister will be aware of the case of Cynthia Callard, a woman in Ottawa who has a six-year-old son. The son has no name and she is unable to give that child a name under the present legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Boudria: From a government that purports to be interested in women's issues, why can we not get a very small amendment to the legislation to correct this case at least, as well as others that are waiting?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: This is a matter that was discussed at some length in estimates. It was explained to the member that it involved more than the Vital Statistics Act. It involved the Change of Name Act and a number of related matters that would have to be dealt with at the same time. That is in progress.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, this issue was not raised for the first time at estimates, but has been before the ministry both from my side and from the side of the honourable member from the Liberal Party for a matter of a year and a half or two years. Cynthia Callard has been seeking to get this change for a substantial amount of time. Why are such issues tied up in bureaucracy? Why is the government not prepared to respond to real human need in the case of a six-year-old child who does not have a legal name?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, if I may disregard a lot of the claptrap that went, as it usually does go, with the kind of question that member asks, I have indicated very clearly this policy is in progress and I expect some steps will be introduced very shortly.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

11 a.m.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I notice he is in the environs.

Mr. Speaker: The minister is not in his chair.

Mr. Wildman: He is in the environs.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, please.

Mr. Wildman: I would like to know why the minister has allowed his officials to approve the temporary storage of 9,000 litres of polychlorinated biphenyls at Chrysler in Windsor, at a site that does not meet ministry standards. Why has this so-called temporary site been in operation for four years now? Why is it that the ministry did not notify the Windsor fire department of this site? The fire department only became aware of it when notified by a security guard at the Chrysler truck plant.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the situation which the honourable member is raising. I will certainly look into it on his behalf and report back to him. Let me simply say that with respect to PCBs in Ontario, the sites given approval by my ministry are in place in various parts of Ontario and have worked well.

The member may also be interested in knowing that we are working towards regulatory authority for the safe disposal of PCBs and will likely have that in place this year, so that type of problem will not emerge again in the future, I hope. I will look into it for him, however.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the comments of the minister. When he is checking, I hope he will find out why this site is being used when the building has so deteriorated, a lot of work has had to be done, and as a result of some of that maintenance work, apparently the door was left unlocked on one occasion for one week. The building is not secure; as a matter of fact, security guards are no longer there on a full-time basis and only visit the site every two hours.

I hope he will also check on a report that Chrysler has hired a consulting firm that says there is a possibility of leakage of PCBs on to the floor at this site.

Does all this information not indicate there needs to be an upgraded monitoring of PCBs by the ministry, especially when this situation comes so close to the recent situation in Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am not at all happy with the information the member is passing on to me today. He is absolutely correct, if the information is as he has suggested, that some tightening of controls would in all probability be in order. I will look into the matter. I appreciate the question and will pursue it further.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to believe, as I understood the minister to say, that the system has been working reasonably well

when he knows full well that quite recently in Hamilton three drums of PCBs have been found abandoned in shopping plazas across the city.

In anticipation of the improvements in the regulatory process that are supposed to be in effect this year, I wonder whether at the very least the minister could pass an immediate regulation to ensure that all PCBs already onsite are stored in containers and that all those containers, even those that have existed prior to the regulation, be clearly marked so we would not find a situation, basically, where a midnight operation could dump PCBs on shopping plazas at risk to the health of people in Hamilton and other communities.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the ministry does require the marking of PCBs at the present time. On the barrels to which the honourable member is referring, I believe the markings were painted over or taken off in some fashion. The only thing I can say is that it was an illegal act; those barrels were dumped by what I would have to refer to as nothing more than an irresponsible person. Thankfully, no damage occurred as a result of the barrels left in the shopping mall parking lot.

From the information I have been given by staff, I believe our control of PCBs is adequate. I will look into the matter raised by the member from the third party and the question the member for Hamilton Centre is raising. I have to tell the member, however, I think our controls are more than adequate.

PAROLE PROCEDURES

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, just as the question period closes, I have a question for the Attorney General. There is a media report that the Solicitor General of Canada is going to have a year-long study that might produce legislative amendments with respect to parole conditions.

Can the Attorney General explain whether legislative changes are necessary? What discretionary power does the Solicitor General of Canada have to request reviews of paroles that are granted by the National Parole Board? Do they need legislation? Does he have that discretionary power?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I think amendments to the federal legislation are indeed needed, and I expect the provincial Attorneys General will be giving this matter a high priority at their next meeting, which will be held during the course of the summer.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Cambridge, York North and Eglinton, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

SUNDAY TRADING

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition that we are opposed to the general opening of retail stores in Metropolitan Toronto on Sunday. We wish to indicate to the legislators at the municipal and provincial level that we consider the general opening of retail stores on Sunday as an incursion of our Christian Canadian heritage."

This is signed by 103 constituents of the great riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere.

GAS BILLINGS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario Energy Board have Union Gas Ltd. stop their \$6.25 monthly fixed charge, which we consider an unfair way of collecting revenue. We would like it replaced with a minimum monthly charge, like the London public utilities have for water, which is also piped to a meter. We would also like our monthly bills itemized."

I believe there are more than 650 names, organized essentially by Local 27 of the United Automobile Workers, the retiree local, in Lon-

don, Ontario, and I am very happy to present this petition to the House.

BURSARY FUNDS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are very concerned that there is no bursary money available on April 2, 1984. There are many people in academic upgrading who have made a positive commitment to their future by returning to school. Without the minimal financial assistance required, these people will be forced to withdraw, thereby shattering their plans and returning them to a bleak future of unemployment, welfare and/or family benefits. It is simply not fair that one who wants to break out of the welfare cycle should be denied that opportunity from the outset."

I give this petition from Fanshawe College students in London, Ontario.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the honourable members recognize that we, as electors and residents of Wentworth North, appeal for your help in redressing an injustice. For too long, parents of independent schools, while contributing millions of dollars in education taxes, have had to bear the full cost of their own schools. This is unfair. In a democratic and multicultural society, choice in education should not carry a financial penalty. This is partially recognized in five provinces. When is Ontario going to do the same?"

I might add that I support the petition.

11:10 a.m.

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 519 people:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private members' bills of Don Boudria, MPP, Prescott-Russell, to permit the sale of beer and

Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

As I said previously, this is signed by 519 people.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Eaton moved that the following substitutions be made: on the standing committee on administration of justice, Mr. Boudria for Mr. Elston; on the standing committee on members' services, Mr. Elston for Mr. Boudria.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

VITAL STATISTICS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Boudria moved, seconded by Mr. Ruston, first reading of Bill 49, An Act to amend the Vital Statistics Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the bill removes all restrictions on the choice of surname that a child is given at birth and eliminates references to birth within or outside marriage. This is again to resolve the Callard case in Ottawa.

CHANGE OF NAME AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Boudria moved, seconded by Mr. Ruston, first reading of Bill 50, An Act to amend the Change of Name Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, this bill would clarify the circumstances under which a divorced parent may change the name of children in his or her custody without the ex-spouse's consent and would enable a married parent to change the surname of the children in his or her custody to his or her surname by a similar procedure.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: To save time and confusion, perhaps we could debate both the 1982 report and the 1983 report at the same time.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Agreed to.

REPORTS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motions for adoption of the recommendations contained in the 1982 and 1983 reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on the 1982 and 1983 reports, I would like to make some preliminary remarks.

First of all, I would like to thank the staff of the committee. We were well served by an extremely competent researcher from the legislative library research group, Ms. Elizabeth Gardiner, who is doing an excellent job for us. Also, there is Mr. Franco Carrozza, who is the clerk of the committee. Without those two people, the committee would not function as well as it does. I believe the ability of the committee to have a researcher has increased our competence immeasurably.

I also want to thank personally the deputy ministers and those who have appeared before the committee. They have been most helpful and straightforward in responding to the issues and concerns raised by the standing committee on public accounts. As a matter of fact, with one or two rare exceptions, co-operation from the deputy ministers and the ministers to whom they are responsible has been more than adequate.

In my many years on the public accounts committee, I recall only one occasion when we had a serious problem with civil servants appearing before us. Those were people from the Ministry of Health, particularly Dr. Boyd Suttie and another gentleman, who were named in one of our reports. It has always concerned me that the then Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) did not take some action against those people. The report, which was signed by all members, pointed out very strongly that they were less than satisfied about the lack of assistance given in that instance. However, as I said, with one or two exceptions we have been well served.

I must pay tribute to the Management Board of Cabinet, the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) and the secretary particularly, and to Mr. Allan Rae of the minister's staff, who monitors our proceedings. I say that because over the past number of years I think the public accounts committee has gained a great deal of credibility. In most cases, I think the government is responding to the concerns and the recommendations that are raised. I think the committee has

been fairly effective in raising these issues. In most cases, the recommendations we have made have been responded to well by the government. They have been implemented or reasons have been given why it is not possible to do certain things at a particular time.

Having said that, I must throw in a slight caveat. To do our job effectively in the public accounts committee, we have to be nonpartisan. Over the last little while, there have been some occasions in the committee when, I am afraid, that nonpartisanship has not always been present. I am not always happy with the recommendations, which often get watered down because of the Conservative majority on the committee. Nevertheless, those people who understand how the system works around here obviously know what is behind the recommendations, and in many cases they have been addressed.

One of the interesting statistics arising out of these two reports and others is that we in Ontario have something that is not necessarily unique but is not available to many other public accounts committees across Canada. We have the ability to initiate action or investigation on our own. We are not necessarily tied to only reacting to the Provincial Auditor's report when it is presented. The committee can direct the auditor to investigate certain matters, report to the committee and the committee will then deal with it.

11:20 a.m.

There have been a number of contracts investigated in relation to that aspect, but I suppose the most telling example is the committee's investigation of Ontario Hydro. While to my mind that has been watered down substantially, the committee has directed the auditor to look into some of the matters relating to Ontario Hydro in terms of mothballing, costs, and so on. We will be dealing with those matters in September when the auditor reports to us and when we have Hydro's response.

I would like to bring to the attention of members that since 1981 we have had 39 substantive motions before the public accounts committee. In the sense that these have been motions to look into various matters, they are substantive as opposed to procedural matters. Of those, 14 were carried, withdrawn or out of order. The other 25 were defeated by the government majority on the committee. Frankly, I think this does not speak well for the committee as a whole or for the actions of the government members.

I am not saying that in all cases these things were in order or were of great urgency, but it has

concerned me that we have increasingly got away from a nonpartisan mode to a point where the committee is dividing on party lines.

I wish to address the matter of the Wasaga Beach confession and the many speeches of the Chairman of Management Board about these matters. I must commend him. I follow assiduously all the profound thoughts that roll from the chairman's mouth and I notice I really need only one speech because he is repeating the same speech wherever he goes, just changing the dateline. I commend him. I presume if he had a speechwriter he is getting the most out of that one speech.

The Chairman of Management Board, in what has come to be known as the Wasaga Beach confession, a speech he gave to the Wasaga Beach Rotary Club on February 29, 1984, announced that the government, under his aegis, was going to employ a consulting firm to look into basically three matters relating to the management of the Ontario government.

The first one was that Price Waterhouse, I believe at something like \$292,000, is going to look into basically three areas. According to the Chairman of Management Board, the first is it "will focus on the accountability framework. The goal is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of individual ministries and central agencies such as Management Board and Treasury: What is our place in the scheme of things? How can we help?"

Frankly, I was dumfounded that the chairman would feel it necessary to hire an outside firm to tell him and the government what the lines of accountability and responsibility are in the Ontario government. However, I want to put this in the context of the Alan Gordon affair. I must say, in rereading the Hansard of Mr. Gordon's appearance before that committee, I am somewhat confused, and obviously Mr. Gordon was somewhat confused as to whom he was responsible.

I want to quote as well from the public accounts committee Hansard of November 17, 1983, in which I asked a question and the Provincial Auditor, Mr. Archer, responded: "May I just comment before you get on to that? As to this question of accountability, I do not think there is any mystery about it." That is a sentiment I would agree with.

"Management Board as the general manager of the Ontario government, is the body that is responsible and must be accountable to the Legislature. The ministers of each ministry are accountable to Management Board, and the

deputies of each ministry are accountable to the ministers. The chain is there."

That was said by the Provincial Auditor, who has a long history of employment with this province and a long experience both as Provincial Auditor and having worked in that organization for many years. I would agree entirely with his pronouncements on accountability. However, in the Legislature we were given the view by the Chairman of Management Board that he was not responsible or had no power to enforce any of the regulations or recommendations or guidelines in the "purple peril," Management Board's guidelines.

We raised questions about the member for London South (Mr. Walker), some of the contracts involved there, and some of the advertising he did without tender. There have been a number of cases, and the case of Mr. Gordon himself. The Chairman of Management Board, like Pontius Pilate, stood there and washed his hands in public and said, "I really cannot do anything about it." In fact, if I recall, he said, "I have no responsibility." Now we are treated at taxpayers' expense to Price Waterhouse running around trying to tell the Chairman of Management Board what his responsibilities are. As a taxpayer, one can only wonder what they have been paying his salary for, for these many years.

There is no mystery to it, but it was a surprise and a revelation to me, I must say. I thought Management Board had more clout than its chairman obviously thinks it has, more enforcement powers than its chairman obviously thinks it has, and that a lot of things were being managed relatively well because of the "purple peril" and the idea of "My God, you do not want to cross Management Board." Then we had the minister's confession in the House and at Wasaga Beach that the board does not have that clout at all.

I also want to refer to the Gordon situation. I asked Mr. Gordon when he appeared before the public accounts committee on November 24, 1983, what he saw as the line of responsibilities and so on. He was actually responding to questions raised by my colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). On page 45 Mr. Gordon says, "My allegiance and loyalty is to the government and the people of this province and I have honestly and will continue to try to serve them to the best of my ability." That is one of his statements.

In another section, Mr. Gordon responds to a question from me:

"Mr. Chairman: You are appointed by the Premier, not responsible to your minister?"

"Mr. Gordon: Yes. It is rather complex. We are responsible to a number of people in any organization as complex as this one, you can appreciate. For example, as deputy to the Lieutenant Governor, I am responsible to the Lieutenant Governor. As Queen's Printer, I am responsible to the cabinet and to the Legislature. For operational matters relating to the ministry, I am responsible to the minister."

11:30 a.m.

All those things seem to be relatively clear. The responsibility obviously lies with the Premier. The buck stops at his desk. The ministers are responsible to him. He appoints them and he fires them, as we have seen. The deputy ministers are responsible to the ministers, and so on down the chain. I find, as the auditor said, there is no magic about this. That is the way it should be. But where the system seemed to have broken down in the Gordon affair was that, regardless of what Mr. Gordon said, he did not necessarily feel responsible to his minister. The second problem is that Management Board does not seem to have the power and authority to enforce the dictums and guidelines it presents to cabinet ministers or to the various ministries.

We know that subsequent to the furore in the House surrounding some of these events, the Premier sent out a letter indicating that people had better toe the line and follow the guidelines. But again we are faced with Price Waterhouse going around trying to tell all of us, presumably, what the lines of accountability are in the Legislature or within the government of Ontario. I find that part very difficult to understand.

In his Wasaga speech, the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet said that, first, "roles of responsibility and accountability will be examined;" second, "the project will examine the government's administrative policies and practice," and third, "the consultants will investigate the human dimension, what might be called the corporate climate of the Ontario government." Those are obviously issues we can all agree on, but one would think some of these things could well have been done internally and the money might well have been saved. However, better they do something than nothing.

I come back to my original point. It really does not achieve much with this government to say to the Chairman of Management Board and his people: "You are responsible for enforcing these guidelines that were so carefully prepared. You have had your management by results; you have

your management standards team." But if there is no enforcement and if people can ignore them at no peril to themselves, then I say it is an exercise in futility and a smokescreen.

I am not kidding. I was under the impression the people over there really had their thumbs on things and that people did not dare get out of line. That was the common perception not only of members of the House but even of some people in the cabinet and certainly of the press gallery and the public at large. But they were found, frankly, to have feet of clay. I do not see that it requires any great cabinet foray, as they are doing on freedom of information, and months and months of study for the responsibility to be given to Management Board to enforce the guidelines.

I want to talk very briefly about two other matters. I will not go through all the recommendations of the 1982 and 1983 reports, but I want to talk about one continuing theme—and questions were raised in the House about it yesterday—and that is the advertising budget of the province. The Premier got up, as he is wont to do, and tried to defend the government spending on advertising. In the 1982 and 1983 public accounts reports we have dealt with this matter, and we have been frustrated and continue to be frustrated by the fact that we cannot get the information required to know exactly what the Ontario government is spending in this area.

We have attempted it through the public accounts committee and people in the Liberal Party have had questions on Orders and Notices, but nobody is able to tell us what this province is spending in this area. Not only have we not been able to find out, but in the 1983 report of the Provincial Auditor we find that the Provincial Auditor has not been able to find out.

I will not bother reading all the details about the agency of record; that is another question. I do want to refer to pages 116 and 117 of the auditor's report. The auditor says this, "For the 1982 and 1983 fiscal years, total advertising costs as reflected in common object codes 411 and 412 amounted to approximately \$40.3 million and \$49.9 million," respectfully.

I would ask members to contrast that with the figures the Premier gave us yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Respectively or respectfully?

Mr. Nixon: Everything is respectful in here.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Respectfully.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That sounded like what I heard.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I am glad to hear you are listening, for a change. I thought you were going

to ask one of your usual questions so you could set me up for the next one.

I will go on to quote:

"Our examination revealed that the Selective Object Code Expenditure Report was an inaccurate"—did members get that? inaccurate—"gauge of government advertising costs. Reasons included:

"The report included advertising costs for all ministries and only those agencies whose administrative support services are provided by the responsible ministry." This is in heavy black ink: "However, agencies that maintain their own financial and accounting records were excluded from this report."

Then it continues in ordinary type: "For example, a significant exclusion was the Ontario Lottery Corp. which spent about \$17.3 million for advertising in the 1983 fiscal year. Also, Ontario Hydro and Workers' Compensation Board were excluded."

If we contrast that again with the figures the Premier was throwing out to us yesterday, there is a huge discrepancy. Let me go on: "As a result of coding errors, some advertising costs were not included in accounts 411 or 412. For example, in one ministry we noted that \$2.6 million paid to advertising agencies was not included."

Again, "Internal costs, such as salaries and wages of personnel involved with government advertising activities were not included."

When we look through the public accounts and see the salaries these people are drawing, I think it is safe to say that since those early days when William Grenville Davis became Premier, the number of people in the public relations function has gone up triple, threefold, and is probably more. Because of contracts and everything else, we are probably spending something in the neighbourhood of \$70 million, and I would say probably closer to \$100 million if we could find out all the related costs.

Given the fact that we cannot afford to give adults prosthetic devices, that we have to cut back on some of our health care and some of our social welfare, it makes one wonder how we can be spending in Ontario something between \$70 million and \$100 million on advertising. This is not to say some of it is not necessary or some of it is not announcing government programs, but a lot of it could be done away with and the money saved or put into other programs.

I can only express my frustration in this area because nobody has been able to find out what the costs are. Of course, that is to the government's advantage. If we do not know exactly

what it is spending, it is a little more difficult to criticize.

I do not want to speak at length about the recommendations. Many of them have been dealt with. Some themes keep running through all these. We have had a spate of contracts that have been let without tender; we had the infamous little bookmark of the member for London South at \$42,000 in a time of restraint.

Those things really belie some of the very valid attempts the government is making at restraint. The government cannot convince me, nor will it convince the public, that while it is allowing those kinds of things to go on, it is really serious about restraining expenditures and getting the most effective bang for the taxpayer's dollar.

11:40 a.m.

With those few words, I hope we will be able to engage in some dialogue across the floor rather than in set speeches. I appreciate all the support I have received, both from the staff members of the committee and the government.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate on the reports of the public accounts committee. As a member who has not served as long as the chairman or some other members of the committee, I have found the experience quite interesting and in some cases, I must admit, very disturbing. I do not say that facetiously in any way. I want to pick out a few of the topics we reported on and highlight my concerns.

As everyone knows, one of the major revelations that has come to members of the committee, the members of the assembly and the general public through the deliberations of the committee, as well as other matters raised in the House, has been what appears to be a serious lack of commitment on the part of some people in government to adherence to the government's Manual of Administration.

Along with that, we have the whole question of the accountability of public servants and members of the government, of the executive council, to the assembly and to the people of the province. Unfortunately, our experience and the information that has come before our committee has led us, or at least has led me, to conclude there is complete confusion about the whole issue of accountability. As a student of political science, it is something I would not have thought was a matter for confusion.

In his remarks just now the chairman of the committee has talked about the Alan Gordon affair, or the Gordon-Wiseman affair as it has

sometimes been characterized. I do not particularly want to get into the personalities involved, nor do I want to talk about the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) for whom I think all members of this House have a great deal of respect.

I want to talk about what that affair seems to indicate about the commitment to adherence to the Manual of Administration and to the whole issue of accountability. I think it is obvious, and it is certainly obvious to the members of the committee, that the former Deputy Minister of Government Services contravened the Manual of Administration on at least two occasions in major contracts. While we do not know this for certain, it appears he also disobeyed the wishes of his minister, specifically with regard to the contract for Allan W. Foster and Associates and in the Telepac situation.

The committee was unable to determine whether the minister, the member for Lanark, knew of the issuance of the contracts when they proceeded. We were never able to determine that. It was obvious from our hearings that the former deputy minister had a confused, if not complex, view of his accountability and the whole issue of overall accountability in this matter.

We realize that deputy ministers in the government are appointed by the Premier and all members of the executive council as well as the senior civil servants in the province are responsible to the Premier. Mr. Gordon indicated he felt he owed his accountability to the Premier, and nobody would debate that. He also indicated he owed accountability to his minister, and certainly none of us would argue with that.

It was significant that in answering the questions on this matter the former deputy minister listed his accountability to the minister as the last in priority. I do not think that was just a coincidence. It was a demonstration of the former deputy minister's attitude towards his responsibilities to report to and to inform his minister. As an individual who supports the whole concept of parliamentary democracy and responsible government, I am very disturbed about what seems to me to have been a serious diminution of ministerial accountability in this whole affair.

When a minister who is responsible for the administration of the programs within his ministry expresses opposition to a program or to a contract or a means of implementing a program or issuing a contract, and that becomes a centre of controversy between the deputy minister and

himself, and he then goes to the Premier of the province to whom he owes accountability and indicates his opposition and then finds himself no longer a member of the executive council for whatever reason, it seems to indicate that the minister was unable to enforce what he believed to be the best approach to administration within his ministry, that a deputy minister who opposed his views was able to hold sway, at least for a short time, over the views of the minister.

In my understanding of all I have studied with regard to responsible government, that is completely wrong and it does not bode well for the future of responsible government in this province.

I will leave that for now and move to the question of the role of the Management Board of Cabinet for ensuring that the Manual of Administration is followed by those people who have the responsibility to administer the government of this province. Prior to becoming a member of the standing committee on public accounts, I did believe the Management Board of Cabinet was the agency and the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet was the minister within the executive council who was responsible for ensuring that the government's Manual of Administration was adhered to—that is, he is the individual and the Management Board of Cabinet is the agency with the overall responsibility.

11:50 a.m.

All of us would accept that within each ministry those officials have the responsibility for following the Manual of Administration. That has been confirmed by a letter written by the Premier that was tabled in this House. There is no question that all members of the executive council and all the public servants who carry out the programs and work for them are responsible for obeying the rules and ensuring they are followed. I believed, and I think most members believed, that Management Board of Cabinet had the overall responsibility for ensuring that was happening. It was quite a revelation to me when the minister stood in his place and said that was not the case as far as he understood it.

When we were dealing with this issue before the committee, we invited officials from Management Board to appear before the committee to try to clarify their roles in the process. The secretary for Management Board did explain to us that Management Board is encouraging what he called participative management. Under this system, quality control and inspection are largely internalized and staff guide their own actions. In essence, the secretary of Management Board was

telling us this government seems to operate on an honour system. Idealistic as that might be, I hope the members of the assembly will forgive me a little cynicism in saying an honour system is not one that is likely to ensure in all cases, or perhaps even in the majority of cases, that the Manual of Administration is followed.

The secretary of Management Board indicated to us that until 1979 the operational review branch of the Management Board secretariat monitored ministry compliance with the manual, but then the branch was terminated and that responsibility was given to the staff of the various ministries for their internal audits. It was felt this would improve compliance within the ministries and ensure value-for-money auditing was carried on within the ministries.

While we agree with the thrust to internal audits, it means overall that deputy ministers and their staffs are self-regulating and Management Board of Cabinet staff do not become aware of violations of the Manual of Administration or instances of noncompliance unless someone informs them. The deputy minister comes and informs them, or someone within the government informs them, or they find out some other way. In this case, the secretary for Management Board had to admit before the committee that the secretariat found out about these situations from the press.

Moreover, when the Management Board of Cabinet becomes aware that there has been an instance of noncompliance or a violation of the Manual of Administration, there is no provision for disciplinary action. In other words, there is no enforcement. I would like to quote from the 1983 report of our committee, on page 76, where we say, "The board is accountable for the actions of ministers and deputy ministers only to the extent that the approval of the board is sought and received prior to the action being taken."

In other words, if deputy ministers and ministers follow the approach they should be following when they are going to issue a contract or are looking for an exemption from the Manual of Administration, they will come to Management Board and explain what they want to do and ask for approval. That is fine. Management Board can consider and determine whether the policy or program is appropriate or whether an exemption should be issued if it is required.

If ministers or deputy ministers, for whatever reason, do not notify Management Board in advance, there is no way for Management Board to know what is going on, much less do anything. There is no direct reporting relationship between

deputy ministers and Management Board. Deputy ministers, obviously, are accountable to their ministers, who are accountable to the Legislature, to the executive council, to the Premier and to the people of the province. But Management Board depends on the ministers and the deputy ministers working under them to follow the procedures they are supposed to follow of their own accord; Management Board does not carry out the functions of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the manual.

What this all means is that there is no one in this government who is responsible overall for monitoring the level of compliance with the Manual of Administration. Despite the fact that we now have a letter sent by the Premier to the ministers and deputy ministers, which says that all people in ministries will follow the Manual of Administration and the correct procedures, there is no one in the government, as far as we can understand, who can even monitor the level of compliance with the Premier's instructions in that letter.

Our committee recommended that this system of accountability and the enforcement of compliance with the Manual of Administration be reviewed by the government, and I suppose that is what is now happening with the Peat Marwick study.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Price Waterhouse.

Mr. Wildman: The Price Waterhouse study. I hope this produces some recommendations that will be brought before the executive council and ultimately perhaps before the Legislature by the Chairman of Management Board that would indicate what changes are going to be made to ensure there are some mechanisms for compliance. I would hope that Management Board—but if not, some other agency—will have some responsibility for ensuring there is compliance.

The chairman of the committee made some comments in his remarks about the concerns that were raised repeatedly in the committee about the apparent level of advertising expenditures by this government to the point that we in Ontario now spend \$5 per capita on advertising, which makes this jurisdiction the highest per capita in Canada in government advertising.

What we in the committee were most concerned about, and what I as a member of the committee am most concerned about, is the response we have received when this matter has been raised and when we have requested investigations of this issue of advertising.

All of us as members of the public accounts committee tend to mouth the suggestions that this

is supposed to be a nonpartisan committee, that it is supposed to be a committee concerned with the administration of government and with trying to come up with recommendations for changes to improve the administration in government to ensure the accounts are in order and that moneys that are expended are expended as they should be and for what they are designed to be spent on. In essence, especially with regard to this issue of government advertising, this whole question of nonpartisanship seems to have broken down.

12 noon

Perhaps in a partisan political atmosphere it is impossible for us to have a nonpartisan committee. But it seems that every time this matter is raised it is raised by a member of the opposition who is a member of the committee. When the matter is raised, it appears that in most cases the members of the government party who are on the committee close ranks and vote against any investigation.

In a sense, that whole approach on both sides has hamstrung the operations of the public accounts committee. I regret that very much. I would hope that all of us as members of the committee would determine what our responsibilities are and carry them out for the good of the administration of this government and for the good of the people of the province.

No matter what their political stripe, I would hope all members of the committee would be concerned and interested in ensuring that money is being spent in the way it should be for the benefit of the people of this province. I hope we will be able to carry on investigations in that vein in the future.

As to the other issues I wish to raise, I want to point out and make quite clear that the problems of compliance with the Manual of Administration were not related to a couple of instances in the Ministry of Government Services.

We had situations involving Ontario Place Corp. and Future Pod. We had the Ontario Waste Management Corp. before us. In those instances as well as in others we unfortunately had many examples of apparent disregard for the Manual of Administration. In some cases there was even a lack of knowledge about what it was and what the responsibilities were.

It may sound amusing, but in my view it is more alarming to have someone appear before us who says he did not know about the Manual of Administration than it is to have someone appear before us who says he knew about it but for some reason it was not complied with.

I find it completely amazing that we could have the chairman of a public corporation set up by this government appear before us and say he did not know about the Manual of Administration, how it was supposed to be operated and how it might relate to his corporation.

I am talking about the Ontario Waste Management Corp. We had the chairman of that corporation before us a couple of times. We had instances where they were not following the manual and where we had concerns about the amount of money being spent and the purposes for which it was spent, the hiring of consulting firms and so on.

It seems that corporation is now getting in line, as it should, with the operations of the manual. In my view, it has taken it some time. I felt the initial attitude of the corporation towards the committee and the manual was very disturbing. I am hopeful that is changing.

We also had the situation with Future Pod, where a former deputy minister of this government admitted the manual was not complied with, largely because of time constraints. He stated that if he had to do it again, he would do it that way again. I find that disturbing.

The other area I was most concerned about was the overall accountability of crown corporations. The committee looked at a number of those corporations and, I am glad to report, found no major problems with the ones we looked at. However, I think we do have a major problem, not just with this government but with government generally, regarding the question of accountability of crown corporations. I hope the committee will continue to operate by looking at those corporations.

We also decided—and this is one case where partisanship did not play a role—to look into the operations of Ontario Hydro with regard to its finances. I was glad the committee made that decision. I am a little concerned that the committee's investigation seems to have been postponed and that the parameters of the investigation seem to have been diminished somewhat. I hope the investigation of Ontario Hydro's finances is carried out in such a way that the committee will get to know something about what is really happening in that corporation, that we will be able to report to this assembly and that the assembly can get some handle on what is happening in the major public corporation in this province.

Overall, I found the deliberations of the standing committee on public accounts over the last year or so to be useful and important. They

did lead me to be very concerned about the commitment of the government of Ontario to its own guidelines for good administration. I hope the committee will be able to use its influence to ensure those guidelines are followed more appropriately in the future.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to rise and take part in this debate. I have had the privilege of serving on the standing committee on public accounts since I came here in 1981 and I must say I have found it very enjoyable and a very responsible committee.

To begin with, I would like to concur with our chairman in thanking Elizabeth Gardiner, our present researcher, for her fine work, and our present clerk, Franco Carrozza. I would like to go a little further back to the report of the 1982 standing committee on public accounts when Graham White was our clerk. He also did a very admirable job for us.

We talk about partisanship on the committee. I know the chairman has always been interested in polls. When I look at some of the committee members, I think of the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) and the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley); I wonder whether the chairman would be interested in taking a poll of the press gallery to see whether these members are partisan or nonpartisan and let it go at that.

The chairman referred to the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and his speech at Wasaga Beach. Certainly all of the members read that speech, but that is not the only speech he made. He said the reason for the Price Waterhouse consulting group is: "It will be the first major study of Ontario government practices since the extensive review carried out by the committee on government productivity 10 years ago. The study will not be nearly as sweeping because it is generally agreed that the overall quality of government management in the province is good; however, I believe some areas will benefit from detailed examination.

"The primary objective is to ensure that we continue to provide the public with the best possible service in the most economical manner, an objective that is increasingly important as the government continues to restrain spending and curtail growth in the public service. For this reason the study will concentrate on three major areas."

The chairman made reference to one. I would like to read them all.

"The first is the government's accountability framework, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of individual ministries and central agencies, such as Management Board and the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

"The second is administrative policies and practices, to guarantee that the rules encourage prudence, probity and productivity in the conduct of public business.

"The third is the attitudes and motivation of civil servants, to reinforce a climate that fosters innovation, creativity and a value-for-money approach."

This is a thoughtful point of view.

12:10 p.m.

I have a copy of a news release about who was appointed to the steering committee to look into the concerns we have as a government.

"The steering committee which will oversee a major Ontario government review of its management practices and accountability was announced yesterday evening by the Chairman of Management Board.

"They are: Imperial Oil president Arden Haynes; former Provincial Auditor Norman Scott; Red Wilson, president, Redpath Industries; and Adam Zimmerman, chairman and chief operations officer of Noranda Mines Ltd."

I think these men, certainly with their kind of expertise in the private sector, will add a lot of credibility to the committee.

The government members on the committee are Tom Campbell, Deputy Minister of Treasury and Economics; Bob Carman, Deputy Minister of Management Board of Cabinet; and Glenn Thompson, Deputy Minister of Government Services.

We now touch upon government advertising and the problems we seem to have had with government advertising.

Mr. Philip: It was never dealt with in committee, was it?

Mr. Kolyn: Yes, we dealt with it in committee; and, as the chairman pointed out, we are dealing with the public accounts reports of 1982 and 1983.

Mr. Philip: It was covered up by you—you and your bunch of seals.

Mr. Rotenberg: Why do you not just be quiet and listen? You have no manners at all. Just be quiet and listen. This is a chamber, not a zoo.

Mr. Philip: It must be a zoo if you are in it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, in the 1982 report on pages 44 and 45 we did deal with government

advertising. When we look at the back, we see that when we were doing our committee business on Thursday, April 1, 1982, the committee considered the organization of its business. Of the 10 items, item 7 was government advertising. On Thursday May 27, 1982, we had Ministry of Tourism and Recreation people there. We did discuss government advertising, and all the debate and questions are in Hansard. So we did review government advertising in 1982.

We were talking about the problems and concerns we had about the Gordon affair. I think it is fair to point out that when the Gordon affair was reported in the newspapers, the present Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) referred the matter to the Provincial Auditor for further investigation. When the auditor's report was finally completed and he brought it in front of the committee, it was unanimously supported by the committee. So I do not see all of this trained seals bit, as the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) interjected.

When we come to government advertising, if we are talking about tourism and recreation, which I believe the Premier (Mr. Davis) was discussing with the chairman in the afternoon, I seem to recall I was in estimates one time when the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) was there and the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) was fully supportive of that type of advertising. In fact, we were talking specifically about, "We treat you royally." I even recall we were discussing the benefits of tourism advertising and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) was saying how much it does for the northern tourist operators and camp operators and how beneficial it is to the small businessmen of this province; but that is a judgement call.

In regard to other forms of advertising: should the government not advertise in health matters? Should we not advertise when we have concerns about impaired driving, drinking and driving? Should we not advertise social matters, social programs? How are we going to communicate with the public if we have a new program and we cannot advertise?

We come now to some of the things we have discussed in committee, such as the accountability of crown corporations. We went into crown corporations in depth. In the light of the many concerns in Ontario and Canada about crown corporations, page 41 of the report of the committee states:

"In September 1983, the public accounts committee continued its review of crown corporations. Officials from five crown corporations

appeared before the committee to participate in wide-ranging discussions concerning activities and levels of accountability relating to their respective agencies. The agencies subject to review were the Ontario Energy Corp., the Ontario Lottery Corp., the Algonquin Forestry Authority, the Ontario Housing Corp and the Ontario Development Corp."

Under "Comment," the report says, "The committee would like to state that it is satisfied that the following five crown corporations are being administered satisfactorily."

We have done a lot of work in the two years these reports cover, and certainly we are going to differ as to what motions we think are appropriate or inappropriate, but we have done a fairly accurate and good job. I have had the pleasure of attending Canadian public accounts committees' and legislative auditors' meetings, which are held in different parts of the country. I have also had the opportunity of talking to other members of public accounts committees across this country and with the federal government. I get the feeling that we have the best public accounts committee in this country. It will stay that way, and it will get better as time moves on.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, as my predecessors have done, I would like to offer my personal gratitude for the work done by our staff, Ms. Gardiner of the legislative library and Mr. Carrozza, the clerk, as well as the people who work in the office of the Provincial Auditor. The taxpayers are well served by these people, and they certainly enhance the working ability of the committee.

Having been a member of the committee for some time, I sense that unfortunately the traditionally nonpartisan aspect of this committee has deteriorated, particularly in the last year or so. I share the concern advanced earlier by the distinguished chairman of the committee with regard to the growing trend to partisan considerations in the committee, and particularly the use of the majority by the government party to defeat motions that are worthy of support and would provide an opportunity for an introspective analysis and determination of whether the taxpayers in this province obtain value for money.

I could never understand the reticence of the government to accept these motions and the notion of an investigation by a committee of the Legislature into allegations of waste or investigations to determine a lack of value for money spent. I have always felt it would be prudent to have this examination through the public ac-

counts committee to correct deficiencies in the administration of our finances in the province.

I have this feeling for two reasons. First, morally it is the right thing to do. When we are taxing people and when we contemplate the high level of taxation we have imposed on the public, it is only prudent that we determine to do our very best to ensure we obtain value for the money spent. That is certainly the primary function of the committee.

12:20 p.m.

Second, and I would relate this in a strategic political sense, if this committee was functioning the way it should as a truly objective watchdog of public funds, I think it would tidy up the administration that exists in a number of our ministries.

I am not going to stand here today and suggest every ministry is not managed in an appropriate way. My experience in my own area of criticism with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is that on balance, with few exceptions, it is a ministry run well by people who actually care about discharging their responsibilities. I cannot say sincerely that situation applies in every ministry, although it certainly is common to a number of ministries here, but we have had too many occasions and too many examples of waste within the last three or four years that should be a cause for concern to every one of us.

If this committee functioned properly and there was no guarantee that a deputy minister, a program director, a senior civil servant or even a minister would be protected by the Conservative majority on the committee, I think many of them would conduct themselves in a more prudent manner when they contemplated spending government money. This situation would apply whether it involved administration of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, government advertising, the contemplation of hiring consultants to write books or to write speeches, or something as mundane as the purchase of government bookmarks.

Sometimes I feel we have lost our sense of priorities when we can spend the kind of money we have on bookmarks or the self-promotional activities the government seems to be involved in, yet we can demonstrate such a lack of caring in terms of providing the funds needed for the expansion of necessary social programs, even, as the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) mentioned earlier, the necessity to provide for funding for prosthetic devices in Ontario for people who are categorized as having reached the age of adulthood.

Notwithstanding some partisan considerations that have pervaded the workings of the committee, there have been positive developments in a number of areas of which I think we can be genuinely proud. While I would like to see some changes to the process and some paramouncy given to this committee and some changes in the Audit Act, I still feel the functioning of this committee probably ranks among the highest of all the provinces, and probably functions almost as well as the public accounts committee at the federal level, which, having met with it on a couple of occasions, I think is doing a reasonable job.

I would like to address myself very briefly to several comments that were made in our previous reports, more particularly in our 1982 report. The one subject I feel deserves attention and should be highlighted for the purposes of this debate is the subject of government advertising. I listened to the response offered by the Premier to questions yesterday and, frankly, I think it was inadequate.

I have never heard anyone in the Liberal Party or the New Democratic Party suggesting for one moment that government funds be curtailed for the promotion of necessary programs, be they in the area of social services, health or public safety. For my part, as critic of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, I have taken the time to suggest during the course of estimates that we expand upon our communications budget within that ministry to promote a higher level of understanding for safety issues.

Indeed, I would say the budget, which I believe last year was in the area of \$350,000 or \$400,000, is somewhat modest in the context of the money we are spending in total on advertising.

My general concern on this subject, though, and I think it is a concern that has been reflected by other members of the committee, relates to the amount of money that has been spent advertising self-promotional activities, the growth in that budget, the method by which the agencies are selected, which was described to me by one individual in the auditor's office as nothing more than a sleazy political shell game, and the total amount per capita that is spent in this province.

Without dwelling on a high level of political hyperbole this afternoon, I would submit the amount of money that is spent, the priorities we have seen demonstrated and the methods of selection of the agencies are nothing less than a disgrace. If members were listening earlier to the chairman of the committee when he was making

his comments about the total budget in the province for advertising, which included the accounting codes 411 and 412, I believe, they would have noted that last year it approached somewhere in the area of \$49 million.

This did not include the amount expended by Ontario Hydro, particularly in the area of advocacy advertising, nor did it include the collection of lotteries we have—I cannot name all the lotteries we have today; I have lost track of them—nor did it include the activities of the Workers' Compensation Board. I am not certain if it included the advertising money spent by other quasi-governmental agencies. If one were to add this all up, I would estimate the amount spent by or for the province would exceed \$70 million.

This exceeds the amount expended by every other province in this country on a per capita basis, and by the federal government, which has been subjected to a fair bit of perhaps justifiable criticism. It also exceeds the amount expended by most major advertisers on a per capita basis, including General Motors, General Foods, Coca-Cola and McDonald's. Those are facts and the government cannot ignore that reality.

The other point I would like to address on the subject of government advertising is the process by which these agencies do business. I have yet to be convinced by either the Chairman of Management Board or anyone else, even Campbell McDonald who has extensive responsibility for monitoring the activities of our agencies of record, that this process is a clear, open, democratic, equitable, competitive process. I have yet to be convinced that smaller agencies can do business with this government and that any agency is entitled or able to participate with this government.

The prime ingredient in the method of determining who shall do business is the extent of experience one has in dealing with the government. On a 100 per cent rating, that amount I believe is given 30 per cent. If one does not already have business with the government, the harsh fact of reality is that one is not going to get business with the government. That circle seems to be unbroken.

I would like to leave the subject of government advertising and put on the record a concern I have raised in this House on several occasions; that is, the deficiency we have in our ability to monitor crown corporations and the subsidiaries of crown corporations.

On two separate occasions, two different auditors of this province have indicated in their

reports the deficiency that exists in the Audit Act with regard to our ability to audit and monitor legitimately the activities of subsidiaries of crown corporations. More specifically, the subsidiaries of the Urban Transportation Development Corp., the Thunder Bay ski facility and Minaki Lodge were mentioned in the last auditor's report.

12:30 p.m.

The technical problem is there is some doubt—and this doubt is really offered by the Attorney General's office—about the ability of the auditor actually to audit and examine the activities of these crown corporations. If that legal opinion is valid, and I have never questioned the efficacy of legal opinions advanced from that ministry, we are in the ridiculous situation where taxpayers' money is being spent and the Provincial Auditor and the Legislature are not able to supervise or examine those activities. I feel strongly that amendments to the legislation should be contemplated as soon as possible to remove the apparent difficulty.

I would like to comment briefly on the role of the committee in relation to Ontario Hydro. I want to express my personal sense of disappointment that the committee has not been able to deal with the operations or workings of Ontario Hydro earlier than we have. At the moment, the auditor is in the process of responding to requests and motions by the committee to provide certain information, dealing primarily with the issue of value for money. We have endeavoured to stay away from policy areas because we realize that does not fall within our mandate. But our mandate to determine that the taxpayers of this province are obtaining value for money spent is paramount for us.

I feel strongly that this committee should have been given that information some time ago. Our agenda should be directed to the examination of the accounts of Ontario Hydro. It is incomprehensible to me that this Legislature and the members of this Legislature have such little power and control over the operation of that agency. I feel it is regrettable indeed.

Before I conclude, I would like to respond to several of the comments made by my friend the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn), who is a member of the committee. The member suggested there really was no partisan flavour to the committee, with the possible exception of the members of the opposition who he felt would be categorized, at least by the press, as being partisan in their operation.

His statement is not in keeping with reality. The harsh facts of reality are that the members of the committee perhaps occasionally transgress what would be characterized as fair play, but for the most part we are interested in ensuring the taxpayers get fair value for the dollars expended. Since 1981, there have been a number of changes to tax legislation that have exacted even more money from taxpayers. Our obligations are even greater today, given the amount of money we take from the taxpayers, than they were prior to the 1981 election.

Mr. Speaker, I know you are not a member of the committee, but if you have a chance to peruse the 1983 report of our committee, which I think is a very good report, you will notice that the appendix at the back lists a summary of the meetings we had during the course of the past year. There are a number of motions, several of which have been recorded for posterity. I refer to one motion, voted on on November 3, 1983, that was advanced by myself. I will read it into the record.

"In view of what would appear to be a very serious abuse by the current Provincial Secretary for Justice, Mr. Gordon Walker, in the awarding and creation of contracts without tenders, I move that the public accounts committee request the Provincial Auditor to inquire whether value for money was obtained in contracts awarded to Donald R. Martyn (\$207,000) and contracts for speechwriting to Matrix Communications (\$206,000) owned by Gwyn Williams. In addition, that the committee request the Provincial Auditor to examine the extent to which outside 'communications consultants' are hired by cabinet ministers, the existence of an actual contract, the existence of a fixed limitation in spending."

That motion was prompted by comments by the government that the minister may not have been the only one involved in that kind of activity. When the recorded vote was taken, the people who supported the motion were myself, the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

The government members comprised the opposition to the motion; the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy), the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn), the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson), the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) and the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener).

On a strict party basis, that motion was defeated. Simply put, based on the majority rule in the committee there would be no examination by the public accounts committee of what we felt was a serious transgression and abuse with respect to the administration of public funds. Where I come from, my taxpayers happen to think that \$413,000 is a great deal of money.

The member for Algoma advanced a motion that requested, "That this committee set aside time prior to December 1, 1983, to call before it such persons, including the Provincial Secretary for Justice and the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, as may be necessary in order to ascertain whether the procedures outlined in the Ontario Manual of Administration were followed in the letting of contracts totalling \$153,000 for consulting services in connection with the opening of six technical centres in Ontario; and the standing committee look at ways in which these procedures might be better provided for or specified in the Manual of Administration, and that the standing committee investigate whether similar practices have been or are being pursued by other ministries."

For my part, I do not think that was a particularly offensive motion. It was probably something that was in the public interest. Again there was a recorded division and the motion was supported by myself, the member for St. Catharines, the member for Etobicoke and the member for Algoma; but opposed by the member for Nipissing, the member for Mississauga South, the member for Lakeshore, the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere and the member for St. David.

The motion was denied. Earlier in the year, we had a request by the member for Etobicoke on the subject of government advertising, something that has occupied the attention and the interest of members of the committee for some time. It was voted on on May 5, 1983.

The member for Etobicoke moved, "That this committee set aside at least three meetings to consider the matter of government advertising, among other things to find out exactly how much is being spent on government advertising and to find out why certain ministries have advertised nonexistent programs."

After some time, the chairman put the question, whereupon the member for Lakeshore requested a 20-minute wait pursuant to standing order 89(c), and the motion was lost on the following division.

For the record, the motion was supported by myself, the member for St. Catharines, the member for Etobicoke, the member for Grey-Bruce and the member for Algoma; but was defeated by the member for Nipissing, the member for Timiskaming, the member for Mississauga South, the member for Lakeshore, the member for Carleton East and the member for St. David.

12:40 p.m.

We had one further motion that day that was to be dealt with the following week. It was dealt with on May 12, 1983. That was another motion by the member for Etobicoke, who requested, "That this committee request the Provincial Auditor to present to it an update of the information contained in section 2.21 in his 1981-82 report, respecting Minaki Lodge, and that this committee consider the matter of Minaki Lodge, with particular emphasis on its objectives, and a cost-benefit analysis of the funds spent on Minaki Lodge."

The members are aware, of course, that some \$45 to \$47 million have been spent on Minaki Lodge. Where I come from, it would seem to be a good idea to have some committee of this Legislature charged with the responsibility of determining value for money, examine whether or not we are obtaining value for money spent at Minaki Lodge.

I would like to inform the members that motion was lost notwithstanding the fact I supported it. The members for St. Catharines, Etobicoke, Cornwall (Mr. Samis) and Grey-Bruce supported it; but it was defeated by the members for Nipissing, Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot), Mississauga South, Lakeshore, Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) and St. David.

I think that indicates quite clearly, and I could read more examples like that one, that the motions are not unduly partisan. I feel it is not imprudent or beyond our mandate to examine whether we are obtaining value for money spent on government advertising or whether we have obtained some value from Minaki Lodge and that the spending practices that underline the construction of that facility were prudent.

Notwithstanding that, we were defeated on partisan grounds. For my part, that is regrettable. As a member of the committee, I still wait to obtain a full and complete explanation from anybody on the government side, particularly the Provincial Secretary for Justice, about how he could legitimize spending \$413,000 without the benefit of any kind of tender on two consultants to do what I would categorize as political work.

I would have thought in the time that had transpired since the tabling of our 1982 report and now our 1983 report that some effort would be made by this government to ensure that the Manual of Administration is respected. I would have thought that some effort would be forthcoming to ensure that where something is absolutely necessary that it be tendered and be contracted out, and that every business doing business in Ontario and paying taxes would have an opportunity to participate in doing business with its government.

I would conclude by saying I certainly wait with interest to hear from the accounting and management consulting firm of Price Waterhouse, which is doing an overview or a study of the Manual of Administration. I feel, quite frankly, this kind of study or overview is really unnecessary, that the money that is being allocated for that purpose is almost a waste. If the government was doing its job and was permitting the public accounts committee to discharge its responsibilities in a nonpartisan fashion, and if it was ready and willing to provide the necessary resources to the Provincial Auditor, the appointment of that particular firm would not be necessary.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I want to start off by thanking the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham), who was kind enough, although he had more remarks to make, to cut his remarks short so I might have an opportunity to give a few brief comments on these reports.

Also, I would express my appreciation to the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet, who had indicated that he would be here for my remarks but unfortunately had to leave. He at least had the courtesy to send me a note to say he would read my remarks and would respond to them. I appreciate that he just did not walk out. He will be responding even though he had other commitments.

In a similar vein to what other members have said, I must compliment the Provincial Auditor and his staff, the excellent researcher we had assigned to the committee and the work of the clerk of the committee.

I would like to address my comments to the 1983 report. Perhaps I can start by addressing myself to the minority report. The public accounts committee, on page 96, clearly points out our concern about government advertising. It shows that we in the opposition feel that value for money was not being realized in terms of government advertising and that a great amount

of money was being spent on government advertising without any kind of accountability.

It was with some consideration that we decided to file a minority report signed by members of the Liberal Party and New Democratic Party. On numerous occasions, with numerous motions, we have tried to have a full and public inquiry into government advertising in this province. We have pointed out that the government was spending in advertising in one year four times the cost of the executive jet, which embarrassed the Premier, who later sent it back. We said there had to be some kind of accountability for this.

Over and over again the Conservative members on that public accounts committee defeated any kind of systematic investigation. When we asked questions in the House of the Chairman of Management Board about why he could not table the specific objectives and the specific criteria used to evaluate the objectives of each and every advertising program, he indicated it was not his responsibility.

He has now hired a bunch of fairly qualified consultants to come in to try to tell him what his responsibility is. One has to wonder what the Chairman of Management Board has been paid for over these years.

Government advertising is not a new issue. In the 1982 report, which we also have before the House at the moment, we see it was dealt with at that time, with the committee expressing its concern about the amount of money that was being spent on government advertising. On page 65 of that report, we pointed out the committee's concern about the expenditures on the generation of publicity through paid advertising or other means of communication for various programs. The government did not respond at that time to that concern.

Similarly, in that report—and I am glad the Chairman of Management Board has promised me in a note that he will be responding—we have a very specific recommendation, a recommendation which has not been followed. If it had been followed, the whole controversy which resulted in the filing of the minority report probably would not have erupted.

I refer the House to the recommendation in the 1982 report that Management Board specify in the printed estimates the service components, such as the costs of advertising, computers and so forth. If that had been clearly done and if Management Board had been able to table with us the evaluations of those reports, then the matter would not have been before the committee

the way it was, taking so much of our energy and our concern in 1983.

It is frustrating when one looks at the kinds of things we are spending money on. Right now in this year, according to Media Measurement Services Inc., advertising by the provincial government is up by 17 per cent. Yet we still have no control over it. At a time when wages are being frozen at five and six per cent, when services are being cut back, when we have over 18,000 families on the waiting list for geared-to-income housing and people literally out on the street, government advertising is up by 17 per cent.

As I pointed out in a recent interview on Metro Morning, in the Ministry of Housing, that section of housing which is directly connected with the construction and promotion of geared-to-income housing, the only thing that was up in terms of housing was the advertising budget which in that ministry was up by some 112 per cent. That is scandalous. When people are going without homes, the only thing in the Ministry of Housing that is up is the budget for self-congratulatory kinds of advertising. As I have pointed out in the committee and in this House, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) even advertises nonexistent programs.

12:50 p.m.

We brought into the committee and showed proof of programs that did not exist. The ministry had fancy portfolios and advertising material out there in the field, telling about the glories of these nonexistent programs. That is not only scandalous and incompetent, but it is also lying to the public. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Chairman of Management Board have a lot to account for. I ask the Chairman of Management Board when he reads this transcript to respond directly to item 15 in the 1982 report and tell us whether or not he is going to implement it.

According to Media Measurement figures, Ontario spent \$3.06 on advertising for each man, woman and child in the province this year. When we raise it in committee, the Conservatives always say: "Look at the federal government advertising. Look how large that is." Of course, the figures show that federal government advertising on a per capita basis is a lot less. As a matter of fact, if you look at it, Alberta is next in line in expenditure per capita at \$2.41 and the federal government is in third place with \$2.12 per capita.

Mr. Swart: What kind of government is there in Alberta?

Mr. Philip: Well, it is a Conservative government.

One of my particular interests in the 1983 report is the explanation of what we learned from our visit with the General Accounting Office in Washington. The Comptroller General of the United States has powers that, quite frankly, should be seriously looked at with respect to their application to this province.

I have spoken extensively in the House on how I feel the Provincial Auditor's powers should be expanded, but I would suggest to all members that they read pages 83 to 95 with a view to comparing the role of the American equivalent of our Provincial Auditor with those powers that are held by our present auditor.

Within this section of the report is a matter that does not deal directly with the functions of the auditor but that I think is also worth looking at. The GAO has done a study on merit pay. Over the years I have argued that merit pay violates every principle of good management that I am familiar with and completely disregards what Maslow and others who have followed in his footsteps have argued about what motivates people.

I want to refer members to what the report states on page 89 about what the GAO has concluded in its impartial evaluation of merit pay in the United States. It says: "The entire system has come under heavy criticism. Supervisors are inconsistent in their rating methods, using widely divergent formulae. Each agency sets different maximum limits and competition for the pool leads to less teamwork within an agency, conflict of interest problems, favouritism and low morale." It goes on and on to spell out some of the other deficiencies in merit pay.

Those members who are spouting the idea that somehow one can motivate public employees by giving one a few dollars more than the guy sitting next to him simply do not understand the concepts of good industrial psychology. I think, once and for all, the concept of merit pay should be disregarded in this province.

The 1983 report contains a report on questions we were concerned about in the management of the Ontario Housing Corp. I would like to refer members to page 60 of the report because, unfortunately, it contains an error. It is no fault of the committee that it contains an error because it is obvious, either inadvertently or advertently, we were misled by the general manager of Ontario Housing. It says: "The general manager of OHC explained that a consistent point rating system is used by all local housing authorities in

establishing the priority needs of applicants on the waiting lists."

It then goes on to say basically that people are admitted to Ontario housing through a needs kind of system. As early as December of last year, in a question in the House to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I pointed out to him that those families that may be in need and have children are not admitted in certain jurisdictions if the parent does not have final custody of the children. In fact, if the families happen to live in Metropolitan Toronto or in Peterborough, they are at a disadvantage compared to those living in Burlington, Oshawa or under some other housing authority. If they do not have final custody of the children, then they are not going to be admitted.

I asked the minister about it and he promised in December to deal with that and look into it. When I again raised the issue in the House only a few days ago, the minister had no response. It was fairly obvious he had done nothing about it. I suggest to him that it must be dealt with. I also suggest some of the issues raised on pages 60 and 61 about accountability of that crown corporation, the Ontario Housing Corp., must also be addressed.

The comments of the auditor and the comments of the general manager are completely insufficient to deal with the problem of Ontario Housing's accountability and efficiency. The general manager explained that the corporation is audited by the Provincial Auditor and that an audit committee of the corporation's board of directors reviews the Provincial Auditor's comments and findings. He also said the local housing authorities are audited, but he went on to say they were studying ways of comparing it with private housing management.

The standing committee on administration of justice in 1980 turned out a report that gave very specific recommendations on how there could be an efficient way of monitoring the efficiency of Ontario Housing. We suggested that there be an annual costing, an evaluation of each project. Only with that kind of system can there be some way of measuring.

When we in the justice committee at that time went out, we found there was no way of even measuring the cost of vandalism compared to the cost of overall maintenance. Until one came to grips with that, often there was money being wasted on things that could very well be corrected.

I can remember going with the committee into a building at 75 Tandridge Crescent. I was the chairman of the committee at that time and the

people complained that light bulbs were being destroyed two or three times a week on the main floor by children going through with hockey sticks and simply bashing the light bulbs. I asked the manager how many times he had complained to the company and he told me he had complained several times. We suggested that surely the simple thing was to put plastic guards on the lights. When that was eventually done a few months later, all of that waste, those thousands of dollars wasted on light bulbs, was eliminated.

Simple things such as that could be done by Ontario Housing, not only to make it run more efficiently, but to make it more humane and more accountable. Yet the 119 recommendations of that committee were defeated by the majority government in 1981 after the election. Many of the efficiencies we recommended in preparing

our report just prior to the election in 1980 have been completely disregarded.

I was informed that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would be here. He obviously is not here. He has not even had the courtesy to advise us he will not be here, even though it was promised he would be. Is his parliamentary assistant here? The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is not here.

Mr. Chairman, I had a number of other things I wanted to address myself to, but I see the clock has run out. I hope the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and I know the Chairman of Management Board, will respond to some of my concerns and answer some of my questions.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

FOREST REGENERATION

278. Mr. Laughren: Will the Minister of Natural Resources provide, for the year 1982-83, a list showing the total acreage of forest land (1) which has been cut over, (2) which is not available for regeneration, (3) which has regenerated naturally, (4) which has been regenerated artificially, (5) which requires regeneration treatment and (6) which requires regeneration treatment but has not been treated? [Tabled April 9, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope: 1. Information available on page 13 of the Ministry of Natural Resources published Statistics 1983.

2. All cutover land is available for regeneration, except that which is used for forest access.

3. Virtually all land which has not been treated artificially will regenerate naturally.

4. Information available on page 14 of the Ministry of Natural Resources published Statistics 1983.

5. Land which required artificial treatment was treated.

6. Answered in 5 above.

COST OF PUBLICATION

279. Ms. Copps: What is the cost of the pamphlet jointly produced by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, entitled Ontario's Natural Heritage at a Glance? What is the portion paid by the foundation and the portion paid by the ministry? What is the cost of distribution, including mailing? How many pamphlets have been printed? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

Hon. Ms. Fish: The brochure Ontario's Natural Heritage at a Glance was produced by direction of the Ontario Heritage Foundation's board of directors to increase awareness of the foundation's enhanced natural heritage program and by informing land owners and other potential benefactors about the ways they can help to protect Ontario's natural heritage.

The total cost of the brochure, including research, writing, design, production and printing, was \$11,700, paid fully by the foundation.

Distribution of the brochure is through the postal system at the prevailing rate. Also, copies of the brochure are being distributed on a selective basis by member organizations of the

Ontario Heritage League, such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, at no cost to the foundation.

Fifty-four hundred copies of the brochure were printed.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES

280. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table the following information on Ontario government employees: (1) ministry, (2) number of classified employees, (3) number of classified employees who are of visible minority origin, (4) position held in the ministry by each of the employees who are of visible minority origin and (5) will the minister provide the information for every ministry in government? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

281. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table the following information on Ontario government part-time and contract employees (unclassified): (1) ministry, (2) number of unclassified employees, (3) number of unclassified employees who are of visible minority origin, (4) position held in the ministry by each unclassified employee of visible minority origin and (5) will the minister provide the information for every ministry in government? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

282. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table the following information on the 3,900 appointed positions with the 700 agencies, boards and commissions responsible to the Ontario government? Will the minister prepare the data under the following heads: (1) name of agency, board and commission, (2) number of appointed positions for each agency, board and commission, (3) number of appointed positions for each agency, board and commission and (4) position held by the appointed persons for each agency, board and commission of persons who are of visible minority origin? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

283. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table a summary of the third-language skills in Ontario government employees, under the headings: (1) ministry, (2) number of employees, (3) number of full-time employees that speak a third language, (4) number of full-time employees that speak two to five languages other than English and French, (5) position held in the ministry by each of the employees fluent in a

third language and (6) total number of third languages spoken in the ministry? Will the minister provide the information for every ministry in government? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

284. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table a summary of the third-language skills in Ontario government employees, under the headings: (1) ministry, (2) number of unclassified employees, (3) number of unclassified employees that speak a third language, (4) number of unclassified employees that speak two to five languages other than English and French, (5) position held in the ministry by each of the employees fluent in a third language and (6) total number of third languages spoken in the ministry? Will the minister provide the information for every ministry in government? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

285. Mr. Grande: Will the minister responsible table a summary of the third-language skills of the 3,900 appointed positions with the 700 agencies, boards and commissions responsible to the Ontario government? Will the minister prepare the information under the following headings: (1) persons who speak a third language, (2) persons who speak two to five languages other than English and French and (3) position held? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

Cabinet Office:—These questions were both placed by the honourable member and answered during the last session. The querier is referred to the responses tabled at that time by the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. The answers remain the same.

APPOINTMENTS TO POLICE COMMISSION

291. Mr. O'Neil: Would the Solicitor General (1) list all the persons appointed by his ministry or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council upon recommendation of his ministry since February 13, 1982, to a position on a municipal board of commissioners of police pursuant to the Police Act, (2) identify whether the persons listed above were at one time Progressive Conservative candidates in a provincial general election or by-election and (3) identify whether the persons listed above presently or formerly occupied positions on the executive of the local Progressive Conservative riding association? [Tabled April 12, 1984]

Hon. G. W. Taylor: 1. The following persons have been appointed to boards of commissioners of police since February 13, 1982:

Alexandria

Alexander MacDonald
Gerard G. Roy

Amherstburg

Richard D. Thrasher

Barrie

David H. Blenkarn

Belleville

Macdonald Fenn Smith

Dr. John S. Stock

Mrs. Phyllis McGaughey

Brantford

Paul Randorf

Brockville

Neville C. Johnston

Chatham

Ralph Douglas West

Mrs. Margaret Illman

Cornwall

Leonard Stidwell

Deep River

Glen Warren

Durham (town)

Norman Thompson

Durham (region)

Walter Beath

William Newman

Essex

Richard Tapping

Fort Frances

William Martin, Jr.

Robert Asselin

Goderich

David Gower

Guelph

Mrs. Sonya Green

Haldimand-Norfolk region

Joseph John Kekes

Halton region

Reginald Monaghan

Hamilton-Wentworth region

Joseph Broughton

Hanover

Alvin Eugene Grein

Hawkesbury

Alain Cousineau

Innisfil township

Robert Gilroy

John Young

Kenora

Gordon Edgar Devins

Kincardine

Earle Kennedy

Donald Joseph Turcotte

Kingston

Bogart Trumpour

Kingsville

Karl Gerhard Melinz

Kirkland Lake

William Graham

Leamington

Wayne Patterson

Sterling Alexander Welch

London

Robert Robarts

Stephen N. Adams

Mrs. Jean Margaret McKenzie

Metropolitan Toronto

Ms. Jane Pepino

Mitchell

William Ducklow

Raymond Robinson

Nepean

Edward Gladu

Sidney Handleman

New Liskeard

Rheal Menard

Niagara region

Ms. Beverley Allan

Douglas Christie

William Barnes

North Bay

Terrance O'Connell

Harvey Loyst

Jack Adams

Orillia

Joseph Francoz

James H. Jones

Ottawa

Peter Vice

James E. Scott

Peel region

John F. Rose

Pembroke

Walter M. Ogilvie

Peterborough

Harold S. Matthews

Petrolia

Robert Crawford

Lloyd S. Cook

Picton

Dr. Richard F. Evans

Port Elgin

Ray D. Fenton

Paul Peevers

Prescott

Robert K. Crawford

St. Thomas

Donald Stokes

Sarnia

Frank Allison

John N. Matheson

Sarnia township

Mervyn Davies

Sault Ste. Marie

Hugh Harris

William Malpass

Nicholas Trbovich

Southampton

Kenneth D. Brown

John H. Armstrong

Strathroy

Trevor Nesbitt

Sturgeon Falls

Jean Guy Rivet

Sudbury region

Raymond Helsberg

Thunder Bay

Ernest H. Reed

Michael G. Bemben

Tilbury

John C. Taylor

Allan H. McGuire

Timmins

Georges Beaudoin

Dan Andreatta

Trenton

Robert Campney

Elton F. Jackson

Vanier

Marcel Prevost

Wallaceburg

Lloyd Babcock

Windsor

John Whiteside

Woodstock

Douglas Puddicombe

York region

Donald C. Hindson

2. The following persons were Progressive Conservative candidates in a provincial general election or by-election: Sidney Handleman; William Newman; Wayne Patterson.

3. I am unable to identify whether the persons listed above at present or formerly occupied positions on the executive of local Progressive Conservative riding associations. That information is neither required nor kept by the ministry and is not a consideration in selection if known.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**SALE OF BEER AND WINE**

Sessional paper 60, re sale of beer and wine in grocery stores.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The implications of allowing wine sales in these stores are significant and will be important factors in the determination of government policy. The government must assess

the potential effects that increased accessibility might have on such significant public issues as drinking and driving, sale to minors and alcoholism.

Because of the strong feelings held by people on both sides of the issue, the sale of wine in grocery stores is not an easy problem to resolve. The comments in this petition will be taken into consideration as the government works to develop a policy that will be in the best interest of Ontarians.

We are not considering at this time any expansion over the present method of selling beer through the Brewers Retail outlets, with additional sales of six-packs through LCBO outlets.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Sessional paper 66, re extension of pages' stay at Queen's Park.

Cabinet Office: This is a matter for the Speaker's office to determine.

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Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
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Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)



No. 31

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, April 30, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 30, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF WILLIAM MURDOCH

Mr. Speaker: It is with a sense of sorrow that I announce the passing on the weekend of Mr. William Murdoch, a former member of this Legislature and a former Speaker. The late Mr. Murdoch is resting at the Gerald A. Smith Funeral Home, King Street West in Harrow.

He was first elected Speaker in 1960 and served for the 26th Parliament. A former member for Essex South, he was born in 1904.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I would like to express my regrets at the passing of William Murdoch. Some of us in this House served with him for some four years. He was a very good friend of all of us on both sides of the House during his tenure as Speaker. He was very well respected and very well liked.

On behalf of the government I would like to express my regrets to his wife Marie and to their three children and six grandchildren. Mr. Murdoch gave very excellent representation to his constituency and served with distinction as the Speaker of this House.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join you and the Premier (Mr. Davis) in offering condolences to Marie Murdoch and the Murdoch family.

Mr. Murdoch was first elected to the Ontario parliament in the general election of August 3, 1943, and re-elected in 1945, 1948, 1951, 1955 and 1959—by any standards, a long and tremendous career. After retiring from the Legislature, Mr. Murdoch continued to serve his community. He served on the Amherstburg town council for the years 1969, 1970, 1971, 1975 and 1976.

Before I entered partisan politics, I had the opportunity to sit on the Essex Regional Conservation Authority with Mr. Murdoch and I can recall the first meeting that we attended. He and I drove to Essex together and once we got there we both had a lot of questions to ask. At the next meeting, we found ourselves in separate committees. Mr. Murdoch and I often laughed about that.

All of us know and respect the difficulties in serving as Speaker of the House and I would like to say that Mr. Murdoch left the Speaker's chair with the dignity and with the respect of all the members of the House, and I wish to join with all others here again to extend our condolences.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I would like to express our feelings of sympathy to Mrs. Marie Murdoch on the death of her husband. It is a sad time for the Murdoch family, but perhaps they will be strengthened by the warmth of the memory that Mr. Speaker Murdoch's name obviously has in the hearts and minds of many members of the assembly. We extend our sympathy to the Murdoch family at this time.

Mr. Speaker: I now adjourn the House during pleasure.

PRESENTATION OF SWORD

Mr. Hagerman: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Wilkinson Sword, it is my pleasure to present a court sword to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very kindly. On behalf of all members of the Legislature, I would like to express our very deep and sincere thanks for the thoughtfulness of your company in providing this much honoured sword to us.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have two regrets on this occasion: the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) are not here to see this.

On behalf of the government, I would like to express our appreciation to Wilkinson Sword of Canada for the sword presentation in honour of our bicentennial and to thank Mr. Hagerman and Mr. Ward.

The current sword, which has been in use in this House since 1871, roughly from the year of the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton)—well, not quite that year—will be placed on display within the building.

2:10 p.m.

As members are aware, the sword represents such qualities as justice, authority, honour and tradition and its place within our parliamentary tradition is both long and distinguished. Equally

long and distinguished is the history of the Wilkinson Sword company, long recognized as the leading supplier of swords and other cutting implements. Like parliamentary government, it too has changed with the times while remaining true to its heritage and the principles upon which it is founded.

It is particularly fitting that the presentation we honour today takes place during our bicentennial. It serves to remind all of us of both the great history of self-government that we enjoy in our province and the obligation resting on the members of this House to defend and preserve that tradition upon which so many of our other freedoms are based.

On behalf of the government I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Wilkinson Sword, Canada, and to Mr. Hagerman and Mr. Ward for being with us today.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the members of this assembly have more reason than most to know that the pen is more deadly than the sword. Nevertheless, the legendary power of the sword for good and for evil is surrounded with a mystique of its own, from the days of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table to the world of Star Wars and Luke Skywalker.

Today's presentation to our assembly of a sword forged by the renowned Wilkinson Sword company in London, England, is an occasion that will contribute yet another colourful chapter to the history and pageantry of our great province. The Wilkinson reputation for craftsmanship is without parallel, and we are honoured to be among those to whom such swords have been presented.

While this is an occasion for our pleasure and pride, it is also an occasion for nostalgia, more so for some of us than for others. For example, my esteemed colleague the member for Grey-Bruce has been closely acquainted with the about-to-be-retired sword, much more closely acquainted than the majority of the members of this assembly. His encounters might even be considered to qualify him for the order of the companion of the sword. It is my fondest hope as his leader that the blood of my esteemed colleague will never stain this beautiful new sword.

Be that as it may, it is a very real pleasure and privilege for me on behalf of my caucus colleagues in the Liberal Party of Ontario to express our gratitude to the Wilkinson Sword company for this generous renowned gift of a beautifully crafted light court sword to carry on the proud tradition established in 1871.

While the sword of the Ontario Sergeant at Arms may not rank with Excalibur in the history and legends of the world, it will, I know, continue to symbolize, as did its predecessor, the integrity and honour of Ontario's provincial assembly.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I join in these informal proceedings in which we express our gratitude to the Wilkinson Sword company, the manufacturers of this sword, for having given the assembly this double-edged present. It confounds the rumour that in this age of technological change, the Sergeant at Arms was going to be armed with an electric razor.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: Don't you start now.

I want to express our gratitude to the craftsmen who have honoured this assembly by this gift and simply point out that the sword itself reflects a very important aspect of our democracy, and that, of course, is the respect we all have for Mr. Speaker and for the rule of law even in this assembly.

In the words of the Liberal leader earlier today, perhaps we should say a special blessing for the sword and for all those who are expected to be run through by it. May the spirit bless those people who are affected by the decisions of Mr. Speaker, and may we also pay respects to the old sword as it goes the way of time.

I understand it is going to be put on show for those people who will come to visit the assembly, and that is only appropriate. We would hate to see it stashed away where nobody could see it.

We express gratitude to Mr. Hagerman and to the members of his company for having arranged this donation. We look forward to the Sergeant at Arms never having to actually use it on any of us at any time because we have never done anything to merit anything of that kind.

Congratulations, and we thank the gentlemen very much. I hope they are able to stay around for the rest of the proceedings to see how this is actually going to be used in the days ahead.

Mr. Speaker: I now call the House to order.

VARIETY CLUB BIKE-A-THON

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to try to get thrown out. I simply want to announce that I kept the promise, and I am waiting for others to keep theirs. I bicycled the 32 kilometres yesterday morning and I want to express my gratitude to all my sponsors on all sides of the House, thanks to whom we managed to raise nearly \$530 for the Variety Club Bike-a-thon.

At the same time, I would like to keep my promise to Mr. Tenzing from CKO radio in the press gallery who, just to show how good he is, managed to ride 45 kilometres. I would like to congratulate Mike Tenzing and also express my gratitude to all the members of the House who sponsored me and say to those who chose not to that next year will be another chance for them to get on the bandwagon.

BICENTENNIAL CARD

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Bicentennial fever is sweeping the city of St. Catharines seven years before its bicentennial. I was asked by the students at Parnall Elementary School in St. Catharines to provide the Premier (Mr. Davis) with a nice birthday card that says, "Happy 200th Birthday Ontario." They said the bicentennial had nothing to do with the upcoming election at all. It was a genuine historical event and they asked me to send this along to the Premier to keep in his archives.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on this point of order or whatever it is, I am delighted to see the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) has at long last been caught up in the great spirit that is pervading this province. The member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) can tell the members about the other evening, when he was there in costume and really looked very appropriate, and just how excited the people were in that part of Ontario and what a delight—

Mr. O'Neil: A lot of Tories, though.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, there were a lot of Tories. I have to say it took me five seconds to recognize the member for Quinte when I first saw him, but it was a wonderful evening. I thank the member for St. Catharines, but more important I thank the young people in the school for this presentation. This is a very clear indication of the quality of our educational system. Even I can read it. It is colourful and it is a clear indication that the member for St. Catharines has really now been caught up in what is this great event for all of the province.

2:20 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

REGULATION OF TRUST COMPANIES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. He is hiding under the balcony there and I will give him time to come to his seat.

My question relates to the minister's regulatory responsibility for trust companies and

credit unions and the ongoing affairs of one Robert Spencer. The minister will be aware of the buildings at 33A and 35 Henry Street. Those buildings were purchased between 1980 and 1982 for \$151,000 in total. In December 1982, there was a mortgage to the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union for \$137,000, and on May 16 another mortgage for \$77,000. That was clearly in violation, not only of the limits on that credit union but also by overmortgaging that property on the 75 per cent rule.

That was at a time when the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations was clearly in charge of the regulation of credit unions through auditing.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: How could the minister and his ministry allow that mess to develop?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, being the active businessman the Leader of the Opposition has been, he will know the directors of credit unions have their responsibilities on a regular basis, and if they are members of the Credit Union Central of Ontario or one of the other leagues, in the past they have had a role that is not the same role they have had since June 1983. The honourable member is quite right, annual audits are carried out and those audits are reviewed by ministry staff. That has been done. When errors are detected, they are dealt with by the ministry in the appropriate way.

Mr. Peterson: That is not a very good answer. The minister is responsible for all this. My question was, how could he let that mess and other messes develop? If the minister is not prepared to answer that question, let me refer him to 548 to 550 Bathurst Street. That is another property purchased by a company of Mr. Spencer through Mr. Brown, his lawyer, the company being 549366 Ontario Ltd. It was purchased for \$250,000 on May 13 and May 16, 1983, when the minister had jurisdiction. It was mortgaged for \$267,000, which was over the value of the purchase price.

A mess was developing in the credit unions before the minister turned that responsibility over to the Credit Union Central. My question is, why was the minister not monitoring; and if he was monitoring, why did those clear violations of the act go on?

Mr. Bradley: Again.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I know in St. Catharines, where the honourable member is so busy with the bicentennial, he does not worry about business matters.

Let us go over the process, because I know it is difficult for the Leader of the Opposition to understand it. The process clearly is that annual audits are carried out by independent auditors. The audit on the credit union he is referring to—I presume it is the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union—was carried out at the end of its fiscal year in September 1983. Similarly, one was carried out the previous year. Those audits have been reviewed in detail, and no problems were reported by the auditors.

Mr. Peterson: It is a problem—

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Hang on. As the member also knows, the legislation, as it was changed in June, gives greater authority with respect to information not normally given to us by the auditor, and regulations to achieve that are in place. Above and beyond that, that credit union had a lending limit of \$100,000. The member knows that. Therefore, those are matters that are being investigated at this time, not only by the central but by the police as well.

There is no way this ministry, as a regulator, had notice of any of those events, although the changes to regulations which we are now putting in place as a result of the act of June 1983 would have allowed us to have a greater information base than we had at that time.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a police investigation currently under way. I assume the minister is not able to report fully to the House until that investigation is completed and there is a determination as to whether charges will be laid. Will the minister make a full and complete report to the House at the earliest possible moment with respect to all these matters on the nature of the transactions, which appear to involve Mr. Spencer, and details on all of them? I think it would be appropriate for the minister to do that.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think that is most appropriate and I am prepared to do so. I might add there has been some speculation that the credit union's lending limits have been increased to \$350,000. It had passed a resolution with respect to that. It was forwarded to us in March 1984, but we had never approved it. We were in the process of a review of them before giving consideration to that.

Mr. Peterson: I want to get the minister to establish the point that we can have trust in his regulatory ability, and he cannot do that. He has not given us those assurances by any stretch of the imagination.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I refer the minister to another property that has been discussed in this House before, and that is 45 to 55 Colborne Street. That property was discussed in the context of Dominion Trust some time ago. We brought it up; the minister is aware of the facts.

However, is the minister aware that on March 14, 1984, this building was sold for some \$3.7 million to another Spencer company, Peter Brown, lawyer, fronting for that numbered company? Is he aware that there now appear to be five mortgages on that property? The first is to Morguard Investments Ltd. for \$1.25 million; the second to Colboration Inc. for \$835,000; the third for \$240,000 to First City Development, a company of Mr. Axton's; the fourth for \$605,000 to Continental Trust, bringing it in violation of the 75 per cent rule; and now a fifth, it appears, to the Toronto Board of Education Staff Credit Union for \$780,000.

This happened in March 1984. How can we have any confidence in the minister's ability to regulate the trust companies, let alone in his past regulatory practices with the credit unions, when this kind of thing is going on right under his nose?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: First of all, I want to make it clear that I have no apology to make with respect to the regulation of the credit union industry in this province. It is a grass-roots industry, which the member knows is run and led by people who have a great interest and concern in their own movement and who are usually very diligent about managing their own affairs.

We have endeavoured to assist them, first through legislative changes in December 1981, and finally last year, in June 1983, recognizing in conjunction with them the troubles they have been having in line with all other financial institutions.

With respect to the particular mortgages the member has spoken about, certainly that is one of the properties he and I have talked about before. He knows that Continental Trust is a federally regulated company, and we have discussed that before. He knows that Mr. Axton and his various endeavours are currently under police investigation, so I am not prepared to discuss that.

The member also knows that the issues to which the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) referred are also under police investigation, so I have no intention of commenting on these either.

SUNCOR EARNINGS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer is busy with his

budget, and I want to ask him a question about his budget and about some of his spending practices.

Will he now stand up in this House and admit that in the first nine quarters we have owned Suncor—two and a quarter years—we the taxpayers of this province have paid out \$207 million in interest? Assuming a dividend of 20 cents for the first quarter, the same as in the past, there has been a return to the province of \$23 million. Will he confirm that the net loss to the taxpayers of this province in two and a quarter years for carrying charges has been \$183,896,448?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the precise figures at the tips of my fingers. However, I think the Leader of the Opposition would want to be fair—I know he would—by pointing out that, for example, the return on equity that Suncor is now showing in 1983—not the best year for many companies—was up to 9.5 per cent.

So while the honourable member likes to pretend that this investment is not showing any return, even he would have to acknowledge that we are getting a 9.5 per cent return on the equity in that very good company.

Mr. Peterson: That is a very feeble defence. The minister is aware at the same time that the shares have gone in value from some \$50, which he paid, to some \$15, \$16, \$17 or \$18 at best, if the minister wants to know the real return on his investment, on our investment, on the taxpayers' investment in this province.

Will the Treasurer confirm that we have lost \$183 million out of pocket in two and a quarter years, and will he confirm that last year, as a result of increased Ontario health insurance plan premiums, he raised some \$60 million less than was paid out for the interest on Suncor? When faced with choices of making budgetary approaches this year, will the Treasurer choose to increase OHIP premiums or will he choose to divest us of that ridiculous investment?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us not be trite by suggesting that OHIP premiums are increased to cover the Suncor purchase. To be at all fair, the increase in Ontario government revenues could well handle all the expenditures of the government if it were not for the increase in health care costs.

In point of fact, the carrying cost of the Suncor investment, which continues to show an increasing return year after year, will not increase this coming year. To get it in some perspective, lest the Leader of the Opposition is inclined to go out

to the media and suggest we are going to raise OHIP premiums to cover the cost of carrying Suncor, the cost of the Suncor investment will not increase this coming year.

Mr. Peterson: Of course it will. It is increased by the interest cost. Does the Treasurer not understand basic bookkeeping?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I ask the honourable member to listen carefully. The dividend increases as well, because the company is making more money. If the member will just think about it in a simple way, when you make more money, you get more dividends. When you have invested in the company, you get more dividends out, and that decreases the carrying costs because you have that to offset the cost of paying off the purchase.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer knows, and I know, the dividends will never approach the interest that is being paid out. The government has lost \$180 million. Does the Treasurer understand that, or does he not? If he does not, he should not be Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer is now going to be faced with allocating money to take up the option at the end of this year to buy another 13 per cent of Suncor. Is he going to budget any money to increase the government's participation in Suncor by another 13 per cent? Is he setting aside any moneys to do that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not know where the member is getting any suggestion or hint that the government is increasing its investment. He knows what we bought in Suncor. We are not buying any more. We are responsibly meeting the payments, and we are earning dividends which are increasing every year.

Let us be clear, so I at least will know we offered the appropriate information and lest the member wants to suggest we are thinking of increasing any revenue sources to fund Suncor, the Suncor purchase will likely not have increased costs this coming year. Since our natural revenue growth this year will be at least 8.2 per cent, as pointed out in my fall statement, that indicates Suncor will not pose a burden on the Treasurer to increase taxes, because our natural revenue growth will be about 8.2 per cent at least and, further, the Suncor cost will not increase.

Therefore, if there are any tax increases in the budget, they will not be there to cover Suncor, which does not increase, but mainly to cover our largest increase in cost, which is of course health

care, increasing at \$800 million to \$1 billion every year.

Before the member trots out the suggestion that there will be increases in OHIP premiums, in personal income tax or in any other taxes to pay for Suncor, let us at least understand that if he purports to make that connection, he will be totally and absolutely wrong.

Mr. Rae: We all know they are trying to increase the OHIP premiums to pay for extra billing. There should be no mystery.

LAYOFFS AT INCO LTD.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. It concerns the double standard that is at work in Ontario with respect to pensions for older workers.

In a report to the shareholders of Inco Ltd., which the Premier knows has just had a very major layoff in Port Colborne, the officers and directors of the company report, "In order to encourage key employees to remain in the company's service, each of Messrs. Baird, Phillips, Curlook, McDougall and Page and three other officers will be entitled, in the event of discharge or resignation under circumstances making his resignation not wholly voluntary, to continue to receive his total compensation, including participation in certain medical insurance and similar plans, for a limited period not exceeding 36 months."

That is a three-year sweetheart deal that has been arranged between the eight senior officers of Inco and the company at the same time as workers who have had 16, 17, 18 and 19 years' service are being put out on the street with practically no severance whatsoever other than that provided in the Employment Standards Act, which is minimal.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: How can the Premier justify three years for the president of Inco and virtually nothing for the average worker who has been laid off by that company?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to justify or otherwise whatever arrangements are made by Inco.

Mr. Rae: It is clear the Premier is saying there are two Ontarios, an Ontario for the rich and the privileged and an Ontario for everybody else, and he is not prepared to do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: The fact remains that if we go down the seniority list, and I will be glad to send a copy of it to the Premier, we find workers who have

been working for this company for 17, 18 and 19 years. Some of them are well into their 50s and are not going to be able to qualify even for early retirement at a vastly reduced pension at age 55.

At the same time, it was announced in this document that Mr. Baird, the president of the company, will be receiving a pension of \$126,500, to say nothing of his stock options or his other benefits, when he retires at age 65 after 19 years' service.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: How does the Premier justify that and how can he be presiding over a province in which that kind of double standard exists, under which the average worker is getting virtually nothing when forced out in his 50s while the president of the company is going to be getting more than \$126,000 when he retires after 19 years' service?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is really quite unfair of the honourable member to suggest that I would be knowledgeable about the internal workings of Inco as they relate to its senior executives. That is not part of my responsibility at all.

With respect to the early retirement pensions of the workers at Inco, some of his colleagues would be in a better position to answer this than I would. I assume that has been part and will continue to be part of any negotiations between the workers and the company.

I am not presiding over a province which, as the member says, has a double standard for people within it. I know he thinks a lot of people in Ontario are not very bright. He used a different terminology. I do not happen to share that point of view, either.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, is the Premier aware that in such situations as the Inco layoffs and in a number of other plant closures in Ontario, there is sort of a double whammy for the workers? The older workers, who are finding it difficult to get work—and many of them are, there is ample evidence of that—do not have an adequate pension. They do have some small amount of savings because they recognized, in particular in plants where there were not the best pension plans, they had to put some additional money aside for their retirement. Now, when they are affected by a plant closure, they cannot receive any welfare assistance from the community once their unemployment insurance benefits are used up until they have used up savings or the money they may have seen as part of their retirement income.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: They are not only affected by not having a job and not being likely to get another one, but they are also being condemned to a much lower level of income once they reach retirement age. Is the Premier not willing to take a look at some measures to assist older workers who have been laid off?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am very sympathetic to the problems of more mature—I use that terminology—workers who have been laid off. I do not know whether the situation the honourable member refers to and its solution would be helpful. I am not in a position to make that judgement, but I certainly have listened very carefully to what he has said.

I do point out that in all fairness, whatever arrangements a company has with respect to senior personnel are not within the scope of this government. We are assessing some aspects of pensions and pension reform, not what executives are getting; but whether questions of laidoff workers would be a part of it, I cannot honestly answer at this point.

I really feel badly that the leader of the New Democratic Party—I do not make any judgement on the pension of or financial arrangements he has with the predecessor in his seat, for example, I do not comment on that.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I honestly thought the Premier had a little more understanding and class than that. I guess I was wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health.

In October 1981 the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) announced a new program that was going to be called the new integrated homemaker services program and was to assist the frail aged and adult physically disabled persons with homemaker services.

This promise was repeated in 1982 in the throne speech and then it was repeated again by the then Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), who said on December 15, 1982, "We are not yet finished 1982-83," and that he hoped to have it in place by the end of the fiscal year. On June 20, 1983, the next fiscal year, the Minister of Health announced the program yet again in answer to a question from me. He said, "We expect to have it in place this fiscal year," but added that it would require legislation. Let me repeat what he said.

He said, "We expect to have it in place this fiscal year."

The minister knows there are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of people who would qualify for a homemaking service which would allow them to stay in their own homes and who have been waiting for and expecting this service for nearly three and a half years now. I would like to ask the minister how he can justify this sad litany of broken promises with respect to homemaker services for the frail elderly? What does he intend to do to keep the promise first made in 1981?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member is aware that during the time frame he is referring to significant strides have been made on the part of this government in extending community-based services across this province. The commitment he refers to was made, and it was made in the context that there was a prior commitment to implement chronic home care on a province-wide basis. That commitment has now been met as of March of this year, the last being in Metropolitan Toronto. I expect that will be fully phased in by the target date of September of this year.

The commitment with respect to the program the member refers to will proceed. There have been some unanticipated delays, but it would certainly be my expectation that we will see pilot projects as part of a phasing-in before the end of this year.

Mr. Rae: The minister is repeating the promise in terms of a time next year that was made in 1981 by the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), in 1982 in the throne speech and in 1982 and 1983 by the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. Can the minister tell us why we should believe him now as opposed to the gentlemen who spoke to us in 1981, 1982 and 1983? Why should we believe the minister in 1984? Why the delay?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Because, obviously, I am eminently believable.

Mr. McClellan: Do you mean the others were not? That is not parliamentary.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruston: Get the sword.

Mr. Speaker: We do not want to baptize that gift so quickly.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity of participating in a panel sponsored by the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry on caring for the elderly in their homes. At this panel were people from across Metropolitan Toronto, many

of whom have been caring for their elderly relatives for 10, 15 and even 20 years with no help or assistance from the government and at no cost to the taxpayer.

The one plea that came out from those people, and one to which I think the minister could respond immediately, is for a simple respite, a possible break, a program that is not currently available to many families in Metropolitan Toronto, so they could take a vacation and have somebody come in and look after their relatives for a one-, two- or three-week period out of the whole year. These people have said that because they are looking out for their relatives at home they are being left out to dry by the government.

I wonder if the minister can respond in the House today by telling these people he will introduce respite care and it will form an integral part of the budget that is going to be introduced, to make sure those people who have willingly and lovingly taken on their family members to care for them are given the kind of support that will allow them to keep their family members at home for as long as possible.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member knows I am not in a position to indicate what may or may not be in the budget. Obviously, I cannot make any statements or commitments with respect to that. It is not part of my responsibility. However, I think the member should be aware, if she is not, that respite programs have been begun across the province over the last few years, usually associated with an existing residential facility, so that a family that is planning to go on vacation and needs some assistance or even a period of rest in a situation where the family is caring for an ill or elderly member, can make arrangements for the person to be cared for in that setting while they are away.

If the individuals the member is referring to, that she was speaking to on the occasion when she appeared on the panel, were not aware of that, or if the amount of space that is available is yet too little to meet all of the needs at any given period of time, then that may be a legitimate comment. We will certainly be continuing to try to develop more respite care, but to suggest there is not any is not correct. It may be a question of trying to make sure those persons who are in need of that sort of relief know where it is available.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister must be aware, as we are from our travels across the province, that hundreds, if not thousands, of people are actually in rest homes or nursing homes who need not be in those institutions if this kind of care were in place. There are two

advantages. It is cheaper for the taxpayer and it is better for the individuals to maintain their independence, which is the number one priority for senior citizen groups across this province.

Why the delay? Is the minister going to introduce the legislation before we adjourn for the summer or is he not?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member may be exaggerating a little bit in the situation he describes. He could have approached the same situation from another perspective and perhaps been a little more fair in pointing out that there are literally thousands of residents of this province who, if it were not for the acute and chronic home care that is currently in place in communities across Ontario, would be required to be institutionalized in order to receive the kind of care they might require.

The fact of the matter is that, even as things stand now, we probably have here in Ontario the most highly developed network of services available to the persons the member described of any jurisdiction he has ever visited and certainly that I have ever visited.

If the member wishes to comment on that, all I would ask is that he at least do so with some degree of fairness.

SUSPENSION OF JUDGE

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Justice. He will know, I am sure, that it was three years ago on Saturday that Lloyd Henriksen, a provincial court judge in the city of Windsor, was suspended from the bench, and it has been more than six months since the Attorney General placed the issue of his status in the hands of the Ontario Judicial Council.

In the three years since his suspension, the taxpayers have paid his salary to the tune of more than \$180,000. Can the provincial secretary tell us today when he expects the judicial council to deal with this matter and why the case has dragged on for more than three years?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the judicial council has not indicated its intention when it will report, but I assume in due course it will report, at which point the matter will be sorted out.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, can the provincial secretary confirm that the reason for this inordinate delay is that the judicial council cannot even find Mr. Henriksen to call him before the council? Can he also confirm that while Mr. Henriksen cannot be found, his

monthly salary continues to be deposited in a Windsor bank account without fail? When is the government going to get this thing settled?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I have no indication with respect to that.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, could the Provincial Secretary for Justice inquire and report to the House on the question that has been raised by the two members from the Essex area?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Yes.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Has the minister a statement to make with respect to the case in Ottawa of a 14-year-old boy in which the evidence put forward in investigations with the police has been rejected by the judge on the grounds that there was what the judge called "coercion and inducement"?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I have no statement to make on that matter. As the honourable member knows, there has been some comment on the particular matter, but the matter is still before the courts. I think it would be a little premature to make any comment on it other than to say I have asked the Ontario Police Commission to send me a report on it. I emphasize it will be a report to familiarize the ministry with that information, but as it is still proceeding before the courts it would be improper for me to comment on it.

Mr. Cassidy: I appreciate that the matter of the trial is continuing, but the concern is with respect to the nature of the investigation by the police, just as it was in the Hamilton case that was raised in the House last week.

Could the Solicitor General say what directives he or the Ontario Police Commission has given to police forces in Ontario with respect to investigations involving young offenders, particularly with respect to ensuring that their rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms are respected.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: On the young offenders matter, we have been holding educational courses. The act has been developing and the information is being disseminated to the individual police forces through courses at the police college and informational seminars. It is a new piece of law and, like all laws in this area, it will be developed in the course of time as the judges comment on what has been taking place

before them. It is not unusual to have a developing type of heritage in this law.

PURCHASE OF OPP BOATS

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General in regard to the purchase of two OPP boats. Mason Boats of Smiths Falls was the lowest tender on this, but it was given to the second-place tender. I am sure it was just a coincidence that the second-place tender came from the minister's riding. In checking with the Solicitor General's purchasing agents today, I find the two boats in question are coming in from south of the border. The boats in question, which could have been built in Smiths Falls, would have employed six to eight people in my riding for part of a year.

Could I ask the Solicitor General, because I know he believes in a fair tendering practice, to overturn this decision to purchase these two boats from Grew Boats and also take into consideration that these are six or eight jobs that are well needed in my community.

Mr. Breagh: Hire Alan Gordon.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the honourable member has brought this to my attention because I am not aware of the largess of the Ministry of the Solicitor General to the particular boat company he has mentioned. I might suggest that the Ontario Provincial Police have purchased and have about 102 boats in their fleet, ranging from small skiffs to large motor launches. I do not know the details of what he is talking about in particular, except to say that as well as looking at the lowest tender in regard to price, they would look at other items such as the maintenance, delivery, past experience and warranty provisions. I am sure the last feature they would look to is the place where they would be constructed.

I do know the particular boat company he mentioned—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That was a very good answer.

Mr. Wiseman: Three reasons were given to my boat builder. One was that Grew had given a two-year warranty and they only gave one in the contract, a copy of which they sent to me. I was talking to the minister's purchasing agents about it this morning. They had a five-year warranty in there, but when they phoned them they understood all that was necessary was a one-year warranty.

The part that was really disturbing to me, coming from eastern Ontario, was the second

reason: that it was not as far for the Ontario Provincial Police to travel to inspect and to pick up the boats as to come to eastern Ontario. That is important. The third was that the warranty claim they had on the unit supplied under the previous contract took the boat out of service for a period of time. I will say this boat manufacturer replaced the boat free of charge because it had some hairline cracks along the side.

Will the minister not reverse this decision and give me and all the others an idea, as I am sure he will, that there is still fairness and equity in the tendering system?

Hon. Mr. G. W. Taylor: All the information the Ministry of the Solicitor General staff has given the honourable member speaks highly of the freedom of information laws that are in existence already. I will review the matter. However, I am not positive I can reverse what he has asked me to reverse if there is already an accepted contract. I will find out the information for the member and discuss it with him. I am sure the people in eastern Ontario will be satisfied.

When he mentioned distance, there is a feature about distance with regard to inspection, maintenance and delivery. That was one of the number of items he mentioned, including warranty, delivery, quality of workmanship, quality control and travelling costs. Those are many of the features we look at with regard to purchasing a boat.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, the member was talking about eastern Ontario and keeping the people there happy. When the Solicitor General is discussing this at cabinet, perhaps he might also discuss the dissension in his own caucus and how unhappy the members of it are with the things that are coming to eastern Ontario. Perhaps he would have a discussion about the meeting his colleague the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) has called with the municipal leaders to give us a little more assistance and look after us better.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That was not a supplementary.

WETLANDS POLICY

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has said Ontario wetlands face a crisis of survival. While the minister's recent statement indicates an intent to save the wetlands, he may have placed them in greater jeopardy. He may have put into effect the law of adverse effects.

Does the minister recognize that wetland owners may rush to develop these lands for agricultural purposes before municipalities put the proper zoning regulations in place? The land owners' reason for doing so is to take advantage of the farm tax reduction program which results in a net tax on wetlands higher than on farm lands. Does the minister recognize that threat to wetlands?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I am aware land owners make decisions to put lands into production, but I do not think they put lands into production to get tax rebates, if that is what the member is trying to propose as the rationale for bringing it into production.

Interjection.

We do recognize there can be a conflict between the expectations of anglers, hunters and sportsmen of this province and the need to preserve wetlands and to create them, as is being done in different parts of the province, not only through the work of the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources but also through the conservation authorities and through private individuals and groups such as Ducks Unlimited. We also recognize there is the inherent right of an individual land owner to put his land into agricultural production, if that is what he wishes to do with it.

The conflict between the two need not exist with a proper classification system, which we have in place now through federal-provincial co-operation and through other efforts that have been made on a volunteer basis by that individual land owner and by other groups in our society to work with him to explain the value of those wetlands and to make sure he receives some value from those wetlands. The classification system is designed to prevent that kind of conflict between the expectations of private property owners of agricultural use and community expectations of the right to enjoy the wetlands. We are working hard with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to make sure that happens.

Mr. McGuigan: Owners of any property add up all the pluses and minuses and decide upon the best use of their land, largely based on economics. The minister would not deny that owners of wetlands can add figures.

Would the minister act on this emergency and persuade the cabinet to bring in very quickly a program of tax rebates for wetlands or, failing that, adjust the percentage factor under the

Ministry of Revenue, so wetlands have a net tax at least as low as agricultural land in the end?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Wetlands are not the only classification of land that is under some stress because of its categorization as residential for purposes of taxation. That is one of the issues I know the Ministry of Revenue is aware of and is trying to address.

I am not in a position to offer any tax rebate system for wetlands. Our priority has been, over the last 10 years, to acquire wetlands on a voluntary willing-buyer, willing-seller basis throughout the province, and we have been successful in that. Other groups, including the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Ducks Unlimited, have been making that same kind of effort. Over a period of years, that kind of activity offers the greatest long-term hope of preservation, protection and creation of wetlands and the benefits they bring to all communities.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister how he intends to proceed. It appears anglers, hunters and others have pointed out to him a bit of a loophole or a crack in the process, which means farmers and others will be punished because they happen to own wetland properties.

How does the minister intend to address himself to that problem? Unless he does, it seems to me he will not have much of a chance to make a voluntary acquisition program function. There will not be any wetlands out there, because if the owners are going to be punished through taxation measures they will simply drain them. How does the minister intend to preserve the wetlands, so he has an opportunity to make these other programs function?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the clearest thing we can do is to explain that wetlands, even if they are taxed, have some value. They have an impact on water quality for the same farmers who are considering what to do with them; water quality from the water table down, and water quality for other purposes which private land owners may get benefits from.

To explain the benefits of wetlands to the farming community and to other individuals who own those properties, to make sure they are aware of the various programs in place, both through the government and through various volunteer organizations in this province and to assist them to get better quality wetlands and some financial return from their wetlands are things we are all committed to doing and what we are going to try to do.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Health has returned, he will be aware that, based on statistics he tabled in response to written questions, the number of bills submitted by opted-out physicians actually increased in 1983 over 1982. The statistics also show bills submitted by opted-out specialists as a percentage of the total are extremely high.

For example, nearly 37 per cent of bills submitted by ophthalmologists were submitted by ophthalmologists who are opted out; the figure for gynaecologists was 28 per cent, for urologists 25 per cent, for orthopaedic surgeons 20 per cent, and the statistics go on.

Does this not indicate that the problem of extra billing and opting out in Ontario is extremely serious and cannot be minimized by the six per cent figure the minister always throws out in justifying his position of allowing extra billing in this province? Are these statistics not compelling for the minister to outlaw extra billing in this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is amazing what the honourable member likes to do with the statistics we provide him. I suppose in the absence of this information he would have been using figures like 70 per cent of certain groups of specialists who are opted out; but in fact when he gets the actual data and he discovers that even though in some specialties there may be as many as 70 per cent opted out but only as little as perhaps 20 per cent of the actual billings for these specialties are extra billed, he tries to make it look like a staggering statistic.

The fact of the matter is that on average across the system at the present time, within the last couple of months—and I am not sure how current the data were that the member received, whether he got them for the last couple of months or not; they were up to date as to what we had available at that time—in fact, right now the number of services that are extra billed by physicians in the province is running below five per cent, somewhere between 4.5 per cent and 4.9 per cent, in that range, and it has been so consistently, I believe, for a couple of months.

The member talks about the numbers of services increasing. Of course the numbers of services are increasing because the number of physicians is increasing and the accessibility of the system to people in this province is constantly improving so we are bound to see the overall number of services provided increase. But the percentage of services for which there is extra billing continues to decline.

Mr. Cooke: No matter how the minister tries to justify it, the fact of the matter is that in Ontario 37 per cent of the people who had to go to an ophthalmologist were extra billed, 28 per cent of the people who had to see a gynaecologist were extra billed, 25 per cent who had to see a urologist were extra billed and the total comes to 4.1 million bills submitted by doctors who are extra billing in this province.

I would like to ask the minister once again, do these figures not justify the ending of extra billing in this province in order to eliminate the double standard that currently exists? If you are wealthy in this province, you can see any doctor; if you are middle or low income, you are restricted to the number of doctors you can go to because you are going to be extra billed by a large percentage of specialists in this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I cannot confirm precisely the figure of four million, although it has to be seen in the context of the number of services that are provided on an annual basis. That now exceeds 100 million services a year that are processed through the Ontario health insurance plan. If the member says four million, that is still precisely in the range I suggested: it is four per cent or a little more than four per cent, somewhere between four and five per cent.

The other thing I think the member has to bear in mind is that of the patients who may have reason to raise the matter of extra billing with us and whom we would then refer to the Ontario Medical Association under the system we have arranged with it for its negotiation, the indications are that 98 per cent of those matters are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

Mr. Cooke: Who told you that, the OMA?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. If you would like to know, it came from the general manager of OHIP. The member will probably no longer have any confidence in him either, I suppose, because he does not happen to agree with the member's perception on this matter. The fact is the situation as it exists is not apparently a problem.

3:10 p.m.

I know the member advertised in newspapers across this province last fall trying to get people to come forward and talk about their horrible experiences with OHIP. To date, I am not sure he got any. He certainly has not seen fit to bring them forward to us.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, since his predecessor introduced the regulations regarding information that opted-out physicians must inform their patients prior to any surgery being performed,

can the minister confirm whether the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has proceeded against any physicians for violation of the information regulation?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it was not a matter of opted-out physicians being required to notify the patient prior to surgery being performed or something. Obviously, I would hope they would notify the patient if they were going to perform surgery before they actually did it.

I think it was extra billing they were to notify them of, as opposed to surgery. To the best of my knowledge, I know of no particular cases that are proceeding. I do not know whether there have been cases reported to the college. I can check with them and get that information for the member.

Mr. McClellan: What does the minister know? When is he going to get a grip on his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not happen to run the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. That is an independent professional body.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is not part of my ministry.

INCOME TAX INEQUITIES

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer on this happy day at the end of the fiscal year on which we all must file our income tax returns.

Is he aware that the federal tax statistics for 1981 filings reveal some startling facts? In that year, 239 Canadians with annual incomes exceeding \$250,000 each paid no federal and no provincial income tax. Something like 8,000 individuals with incomes over \$50,000 paid no income tax.

Of these individuals, I estimate something like 3,200 of them probably resided in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: It is amazing. I thought the Income Tax Act was Liberal policy.

Mr. T. P. Reid: From the nattering that is going on, I take it the leader of the New Democratic Party is one of those.

Recognizing that some of the tax breaks are for charity and investment in Canadian industries, for example, will the Treasurer agree this is taking things too far? Will he commit himself to promoting an examination of this problem at the

next meeting of federal and provincial finance ministers?

Mr. McClellan: Don't hit it out of the park.

Mr. Rae: Don't hit it too hard.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is an easy one. It is Liberal policy.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Lots of time. Never go at an easy one; wait for a tough one.

Mr. Speaker, the simple answer to that question is yes, I think something should be done. I would be pleased to raise this and will be raising it, as I already have, with the federal government. I would take this opportunity to encourage the member to do the very same with his friends, relatives, colleagues and federal candidates in the hope they will make the appropriate and proper changes to the income tax system so those people who should be paying federal tax and through that, provincial tax, do pay.

I would also share this with the member. I have discussed that problem during my budget presentation. It is one of the reasons that from time to time we are obliged to look at going the route of a separate income tax system. None the less, for very good reasons, we stay in the federal system.

However, I have urged the federal government to make the appropriate changes so both levels of government might get an appropriate level of tax from those persons.

Again, I urge the member to join hands with us in bringing this case forward to his people.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I would find it difficult to join hands with the Treasurer under any circumstances. However, I wonder if he can indicate what his federal leader's position is on this, since he has been quiet on this issue as on all others.

At the very least, is the Treasurer promoting a minimum rate of 20 per cent, no matter what the deductions are, as they do in the United States, so there will be that floor to catch those kinds of people who have been avoiding income tax at both levels?

Is the Treasurer aware they do this in the United States and that if we had done it in the taxation year of 1981, on which the statistics are based, the federal and Ontario treasuries would have netted approximately \$52 million? Is he pushing a particular tax percentage such as a minimum 20 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. We have not yet gone to the extent of suggesting a particular target because when one does that one must be very careful that removing the tax incentives that

are part of the system is not removing stimulæ from the economy which are worth much more.

Mr. Rae: What are you going to do?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not defending the system. I think there should be some sort of minimum tax level. My only point is that in arbitrarily selecting what seems to be an easy measure, that is 20 per cent, one has to be careful because one may be removing from some people a very powerful reinvestment tool which has been structured through the tax system.

None the less, I agree with the member. Something ought to be done so that those people pay taxes.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, this is a little hard to take from the Liberal Party, which is responsible for these golden loophole winners who have managed not to pay any taxes over the years.

Given the inequity of the federal Income Tax Act, passed by the Liberal Party of Canada, enacted by the Liberal Party of Canada, imposed by the Liberal Party of Canada, is the Treasurer prepared to look at ways of amending the provincial tax system and doing something within our own jurisdiction to guarantee that these artists who have taken advantage of the loopholes in the Income Tax Act are required to pay something to the Treasury of this province in order to ensure that there are not two Ontarios; one for the rich and one for everybody else?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the first part of that was indeed a very fine question. With regard to the second part, I would share with the member for York South (Mr. Rae) the fact that we have been reviewing mechanisms which might allow some sort of recapture of a minimum tax. However, the conclusion to date may not be the final conclusion and I would say this budget will not be able to deal with it.

The analysis indicates that without having access to the federal income tax system it is nigh on impossible to deal with this in a fair and equitable way.

TESTING OF WELLS

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health, in the absence of his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt).

I am sure the Minister of Health is aware, since he was still the Minister of the Environment at the time, that a year ago last June the Ministry of the Environment set about to do priority pollutant testing on 25 wells around the Pauzé landfill site in Tiny township. The people owning the

properties on which those wells were tested have not yet received the test results.

When we inquire of the Ministry of the Environment staff, they blame the Ministry of Health, and when we inquire of the Ministry of Health staff, they blame the Ministry of the Environment.

Can the minister find out for us where the holdup is in the release of these test results, ensure they get out as quickly as possible to the 24 families that have not yet received them and will he also table the test results in the House?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence in my very capable colleague the Minister of the Environment. I will speak to him about it and I am sure that between us, the information can be made available shortly. I am not aware of where it is at the moment.

3:20 p.m.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of 14 persons from the town of Hearst in my riding of Cochrane North:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition from approximately 450 residents of Oxford, addressed as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable John Black Aird, and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, being electors and residents of Oxford riding, ask for help in redressing an injustice. For too long, parents of independent schools, while contributing millions of dollars in education taxes, have had to bear the full cost of their own schools. This is unfair. In a democratic and multicultural society, choice in education should

not carry a financial penalty. This principle is partially recognized in five provinces.

"We, the undersigned, hereby request the province of Ontario to ensure the choice of education is made available to citizens equally."

ORDERS OF THE DAY

REPORT, STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: WIFE BATTERING (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on social development on family violence: wife battering.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that when this report was tabled, the debate was adjourned by the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko). I want some direction from the House—in fact, agreement before the House. I would like to take part in this debate, and I do not want to preclude the opportunity for the member to take part in the debate, but could I have the unanimous consent of the House to—

Mr. Renwick: Why not just wait your turn?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If the honourable member will allow me, I will tell him why. I have a commitment in Dunnville, and I would like to get there, so I thought perhaps I could speak earlier.

Mr. Nixon: What are you doing in Dunnville?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is a meeting of the Anglican brotherhood there.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Do we want to debate both these items at the same time? No? All right then.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this debate on the family violence report of the standing committee on social development is very timely. The government of this province has been endeavouring in recent months to stimulate public discussion and awareness of this very abhorrent social problem.

I want to begin this afternoon by commending the members of the standing committee on social development for their sensitivity and insight in the development of this report, for the many days and weeks of concentrated effort that resulted in this intuitive document and for bringing this all-too-prevalent and too-long-hidden problem into the forefront of public discussion.

Family violence is a crime that has been too long hidden from public scrutiny. For too long, the public has turned a blind eye to this deplorable abuse. This government is determined to bring the crime into sharp focus and is endeavouring in every way possible to eliminate it.

Members will hear in a few moments from my colleague the Minister for Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea). He will report to the House on the efforts of his ministry to assist and to promote the development of transition houses and resource centres in the province, to ensure victims of family violence have the shelter and support they require.

The Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) has also been very involved in the discussion of and the response to this report. I am sure all the members are aware of the major consultation on wife battering which his secretariat sponsored on January 23 and January 24, 1984. This consultation brought together individuals and groups whose specific concerns and expertise were related to the justice aspects of wife battering, including local victims' service groups, community workers, law enforcement personnel, court officials and other representatives of government and the professions.

In response to reports developed at a series of workshops during the consultation, the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) has commissioned a series of special studies aimed at improving justice services for battered women. These projects, and I list them here, are as follows:

1. A study of legal information and counselling services for battered women;
2. A research study on alternative responses to family violence incidents and their relationship to long-term prevention;
3. A special project aimed at improving services for battered rural women vis-a-vis the justice system;
4. An information study on requirements and resources to meet the needs of battered immigrant women;
5. A similar information study on the requirements and resources needed to meet the needs of native women, and
6. An assessment of programs for men who batter.

The design phase of these studies is now complete, and the projects themselves will be carried out during this fiscal year.

Other Justice-related initiatives were identified in the initial government response to the

report we are debating this afternoon when it was introduced last fall.

In the summer of 1982, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) reminded crown attorneys throughout Ontario of the long-standing policy of his ministry to prosecute vigorously all cases of wife battering.

In November 1982, the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) emphasized to all police forces in the province that police officers, rather than the victim, should lay charges in incidents of wife battering where reasonable and probable grounds for such charges existed.

In line with this policy, the Ontario Police College manual, used for training police officers, was extensively revised and upgraded. The manual makes quite clear the duty of officers to intervene in incidents of domestic violence and to lay charges where such action is warranted.

The Solicitor General also requested all police forces to provide him with a full report on this directive. As a result of the information received, work is currently under way to develop a method of gathering facts which will provide the necessary degree of uniformity throughout Ontario.

It is significant to note as well that the Attorney General is in the process of developing a proposal to place victim-witness assistance workers in the offices of crown attorneys.

I have touched on a few of the most recent provincial initiatives. Perhaps I could use the remaining time allocated to draw the attention of all members in the House to the co-ordination of the government's efforts in this very important area of concern.

3:30 p.m.

On November 1, 1983, as part of the government's response to the report of the standing committee on social development, I announced that we were appointing a provincial co-ordinator of family violence initiatives and that this co-ordinator would be located in the Office of the Deputy Premier.

The provincial co-ordinator, Jill Logan, has now been in that office for just over five months, and since Jill Logan's appointment, a steering committee of 12 Ontario government ministries has been established and has met several times to examine in detail the series of initiatives under way in various government ministries to ensure overall co-ordination of efforts.

That committee is in the process of preparing a report on Ontario government programs and initiatives for the federal-provincial-territorial working group on wife battering. We will be

discussing this on a federal-provincial basis in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the middle of next month.

Thanks to our co-ordination process, we have been able to present and to respond as one consistent voice in our discussions with the federal government on possible joint projects as well as on cost-sharing arrangements.

The provincial co-ordinator of family violence initiatives and I have been liaising wherever possible with community groups to determine their priorities as to government involvement and funding and to find out how the government can best assist the community to educate service providers, professionals, government officials and others about this whole area of family or domestic violence.

A common request from these individuals has been for the government to undertake a major public awareness and education campaign to focus public attention on the high incidence of wife battering and to make everyone aware that this behaviour is significant and unacceptable social behaviour.

We are encouraged by the request for the major public awareness and education campaign because, as the members may recall, the government indicated in November 1983 that its initiatives would be supported by such a public education program. A major public education campaign is now being developed. Its introduction will coincide with a series of regional meetings on family violence that will be held throughout the province.

The provincial co-ordinator is in the process of establishing planning committees in five regions of the province. Through this process, key community representatives will be brought together to effect improved community co-ordination and the utilization of available resources.

I am pleased to indicate to the House that the first regional meeting will take place in Kingston on June 12. I seek the support of all members of the House and urge them to bring forward names of individuals whom they believe should be involved in this consultative process as we move throughout the province to discuss this matter on a community basis with the people of the province.

These regional meetings and the public education campaign must be coupled with funding initiatives. My colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services will tell the members during this debate that his ministry has more than doubled the funding to transition houses and family resource centres. Substantial funds have

been allocated for our public education campaign. The series of studies the Provincial Secretary for Justice has commissioned will undoubtedly identify areas for even further activity.

May I also take a moment to draw the members' attention to the recent throne speech, which emphasized the government's commitment to address vigorously the problem of family violence. I am sure the recommendations contained in the upcoming report on wife battering to the ministers responsible for the status of women will highlight priority areas in terms of future activities to alleviate any gaps there may be in the whole program delivery area.

I am confident that this educational approach to the problem of family violence and the necessary responses initiated so ably by the standing committee's report on wife battering will provide the impetus necessary to reduce and, it is hoped, eventually bring to an end this most insidious kind of behaviour.

In closing, I would like once again to applaud the work of the standing committee and assure all honourable members that government initiatives will continue; will be carried out in a co-ordinated and consistent fashion, both within this government and between governments; will respond to needs identified by knowledgeable community representatives, and will be carried out within a theme of overall public awareness and education.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), to accommodate my time restraints, has allowed me to speak before him, and I appreciate the gesture.

As the person who, with the support of my caucus, is responsible for first sending out the annual report last March, I want to say a few things first of all to compliment the committee, the two chairmen we have had—now we are moving into our third chairman of the committee as we move into various aspects of family violence—and the government for the action it has taken to this point.

I want to draw people's attention to some of the difficulties we had in just broaching this subject when we started off, because for all of us it has been quite an education.

When I first introduced the motion to have this referred out, it was not legally an appropriate thing to do; we were the last one to slip in this way, if you will. It was challenged in this House; we almost did not get this issue out to committee. It was very close, and I think in retrospect all

members of the House would regret that we had to go through this kind of debate just to get it to committee.

Then when we had it in committee we thought, "Let us deal with family violence in as limited a time as we can." We were not looking at it in the kinds of terms in which we have learned to look at this issue since then in our committee. Certainly we were not looking at it as a committee in terms of the co-operation between all members and the lack of partisanship in the way the committee worked—in other words, who would come before us, how we would discuss things with those people or the way we came to consensus on recommendations. It was an example to all committees of this House as to how we can operate, how we can come forward with some very practical solutions.

I then think back to the response of the government to this issue as we came forward with it, and I cannot help remembering comments by the Minister of Community and Social Services about batterers maybe spending some time on park benches, as would be appropriate for them—a rather insensitive remark at that point, I might say. There have been changes in his attitude since, I note.

I cannot help referring to the great book *A Conservative Canada*, by the present Provincial Secretary for Justice, and comments he made at the time of this book's publication in 1983. It speaks of how we perhaps should be laying charges against both partners: "It takes at least two to make a fight, and perhaps the law should consider both partners the problem...." I think the provincial secretary also has changed his mind since then and has been going through the education process that a lot of members on the committee have been going through over the last number of months.

I would be much happier about the situation we find ourselves in with this report, which I think we can all be justly proud of, if I thought it had been acted upon with all the quickness and celerity it deserved. When you consider that we finalized our report—and, God knows, because our process was so open, copies of where we were going with the report were available to ministers before this—we brought in that report in November 1982, and we did not get a response from the government until September 1983.

I am not sure we saw it responded to with exactly the kind of quickness I believe, and I think all members of the committee felt, it deserved. It is somewhat ironic that here we are in 1984, just about a month or two after the

second anniversary of the initiation of this project, actually debating the matter in the Legislature.

3:40 p.m.

I would say, however, I am pleased that we did it and I am pleased that we set the examples we have. I hope we will see a change in this government's attitude towards the issue now from one we have just heard enunciated again today, namely, "Let us have more conferences, let us have more discussion and let us have more studies," about things I believe common sense will tell us how to provide.

After only two weeks of hearings, we were quickly able to put our finger on the fact that we do not need further studies. Let us get some action. Let us not have more studies on some of these matters, whether it is the witness assistance program—which I am afraid is going to turn into a hand-holding process in the courts system, from the way I hear it is being developed, rather than having people there who are properly prepared to be advocates for those women in very threatening situations—or whether it is the development of the family resource centres, which I see as the lowest-common-denominator approach to providing interval houses.

That is now being reinforced by the bail-out money for the existing homes that were in trouble, by bringing them down to what I would call the lowest common denominator in the standards we are expecting of staff in those places, the dependence on volunteers and the lack of other available services.

Looking at the bail-out funds, even though many of our homes in Metro were in trouble, they have not been the major recipients. Few of them have been recipients of any aid through that program. They are the ones that are providing some of the broadest range of services to the women who go to them.

Instead, we are talking about a minimalist approach to those houses and a minimalist approach to funding them. That defies the spirit of what we are bringing forward. That defies the concept we had about coming up with particular legislation to get this away from the General Welfare Assistance Act. I really regret seeing that.

Looking in practical terms at how it is today in Ontario for a battered woman in comparison to how it was before we dealt with the issue, I would say a few things have changed, but not nearly enough. We still do not get as much consultation with a prosecuting attorney as we would like. We still do not get the support from police officers

around the province we would like. Even more important, we have structures in our provincial programs in government institutions at the moment that inflict heavy penalties on battered women and do not assist them.

I would like to raise a couple of issues with the minister and ask him not to study them but to do something about them. The first is about Ontario Housing Corp. regulations. A person gets no extra points at all to get into Ontario Housing if she is a battered women. I have been working with the Emily Stowe Shelter for Women in Scarborough to try to get women into Ontario Housing faster, and they will not consider it as an extra qualification when urged to get those women in.

Not only that, I have run into the ludicrous, tragic situation of women who were in Ontario Housing and were beaten while in Ontario Housing, then being forced out of Ontario Housing and into the shelter. The husband stayed in that OHC apartment, sitting there with impunity, and the woman was trying to get back on the bottom of the waiting list to get into Ontario Housing. It seems to me that is sending a very bad message.

Mr. Philip: She is not immune if he does not pay the rent.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. The member for Etobicoke makes the point that it depends on who is paying the rent as to whether it was her apartment. We have this business where the batterer gets to stay, while the woman has to go to the Emily Stowe Shelter and then gets on the bottom of the list to get back into housing for which she was qualified in the first place.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I believe I said something about that three years ago.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We talked about people staying on park benches three years ago.

I hope we have a more civilized approach on how we would deal with batterers and the kind of mandated programs we would want. One of the things we were concerned about was the whole question of the welfare act being the basis for the operation of the hostels and a lot of other support services.

The minister may or may not be aware about women who go into hostels under the new, progressive element of the welfare act, the new regulation that allows people to receive discharge allowances. We thought it was primarily for ex-psychiatric patients and that sort of thing. Women in hostels are now eligible, too, except it is at the discretion of the local administrator, as are so many things under the General Welfare

Assistance Act. We are running into situations where some women are getting the full amount of support to get back out and establish themselves in the community, while others are getting almost nothing.

For instance, a women who goes back into Ontario Housing is being told that because she is eligible, as well, for what already exists, which is a bedding kind of assistance, she is not going to be getting anything further from this special discharge allowance. They are being penalized for that. I think we should change that immediately. It should become mandatory; it should be on top of those extra services that are available to people who are discharged. That was not how it was designed, but it is exactly what is happening to women at the moment.

Because it is up to local administrations under the General Welfare Assistance Act to decide whether or not they will pay first and last month's rent, we have many women around the province who are staying in hostels much longer than they need to. When I was in Kapuskasing and St. Catharines, I learned there are women who are going back to unsafe situations with batterers because they cannot afford to get housing in their community. As long as this is based on the General Welfare Assistance Act and is left up to the discretion of local administrators, women are going to be victimized.

What we need and what the committee asked for in our report was a special act to provide for the support and assistance of these kinds of women, which would provide these other kinds of support and would, I hope, move them towards second-stage housing, something we have not heard anything about from the government. Given the waiting lists to get into housing, given the lack of priority given to women who have been battered, I would suggest this just reinforces what we have been suggesting.

Because of the graciousness of the member to allow me to go first, I will not belabour the point and talk about many of the other things that were in our report, of which I am very proud and from which I see some action from this government but not as much as I would like. But I would ask members of the House who have not read our report to look at it in comparison with what one could come up with from a royal commissioner who sits for two years, gets paid \$800 a day and says, "There is something wrong with the economy, but we aren't quite sure what yet."

Look at what can be done in two weeks by members of goodwill working together as a committee and the kinds of responses it can elicit

from government. It should give every back-bencher in this House hope and a good feeling to know the kinds of things we did there, the way we worked together, can have an impact on a government that was not doing very much in this field before.

Even if a lot of what the government is doing now is public relations and is, in my view, developing a network for the present minister and his staff more than it is dealing with things that can be decided upon today in this Legislature, at least we had a major impact on this Legislature, and for that and for all members who were on that committee I feel very proud.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, before I launch into what I expect will be very brief remarks, I wonder if I could get some help from the chair and from the Minister of Community and Social Services, who I understand is going to speak to both of these reports, in sorting out what we are going to do this afternoon. It would be my suggestion, with the concurrence of both other parties, that we might split the time evenly between both reports to allow us to talk about the child abuse report, if that is acceptable.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Is it the unanimous consent of the House to divide the time evenly this afternoon between the two reports of the committee?

Agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: I will ask the table to send me information on the time and I will alert you accordingly.

Mr. Wrye: I am going to be fairly brief because I think it is important that a number of us put our remarks on the table and make some remarks on both of these reports. I might start out by saying to my friend the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) and to the Minister of Community and Social Services that I am a little disappointed we have taken this long to get down to having a debate, but I am pleased, none the less, that we are having one eventually.

I am very rarely complimentary of this government, as members opposite know, and I will not be terribly complimentary today. But I would say this is an issue that members of all three parties have worked long on and, although I will have a few criticisms, this is one of the areas where the government has shown some responsiveness, perhaps because we have been able to work together. The responsiveness has not been good enough, in my judgement, particularly in a couple of the areas my friend the member for Scarborough West raised, and I will talk about

the whole issue of block funding. But I think we have raised the level of consciousness, of awareness, and to that extent we are beginning to attack the problem.

3:50 p.m.

I think some of the issues we will raise this afternoon deserve and demand in a very real way a little more—in fact, a lot more activity from the government. It has been about 18 months since the standing committee on social development produced this report on wife battering. It is useful to read into the record the conclusion of the report. I would remind all honourable members who did not sit on the committee, and I was one of them, of the conclusion the committee drew. It is useful for us to think about it long and hard, not only the members of the Legislature, but the people of Ontario in general.

It reads as follows: "This committee has been deeply disturbed by what we have seen and heard. A fundamental value of our society—the inviolability of the person—is infringed and, yet, the criminal justice, medical, mental health and social service systems tend not to see that infringement. They are preoccupied with other values—in particular, the privacy of the family unit and the desirability of preserving that unit.

"This committee respects the privacy of the family. We consider the family to play an important role in helping individuals to grow to their full potential. Nevertheless, society's obligation to protect each of its members from harm must be supreme. Above all else, including the maintenance of the family, a battered woman must be given protection. The message should be clear to the victim—'you do not have to put up with the violence.' As for the batterer, he must know that any assault is a crime. Society must no longer tolerate violence within the family."

That sums up very neatly the views of the committee members and probably the views of this House as a whole.

Over the last while I have had an opportunity to speak to a number of committee members from all three parties. I know just how shocked they were in finding the extent to which wife battering and domestic violence are a problem within Ontario society in the 1980s. I am pleased that as a Legislature we have begun to do something about it.

I want to deal very briefly with a number of the recommendations I believe need a firmer hand. The first is the recommendation on the Ontario Housing Corp. which my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) alluded to.

Not only are the women who are victims often physically unable to push away violent husbands, they are often economically dependent upon the husband for the shelter of both themselves and the children. It is a problem that remains to this day, in spite of the fact that the report is some 18 months old.

One might ask rhetorically when this government is going to respond to recommendations 26 and 27 and direct the Ontario Housing Corp. to revise its point rating system for admission to its rental housing units in order to give preference to victims of wife assault? The OHC policy on transferring tenants to other rental housing should also be revised to include wife assault as grounds for transfer.

That is an issue that has been on the table long enough. I say to the Deputy Premier and to the co-ordinator in his office it is an issue that Ms. Logan must look at and this government must address.

Transition houses, as the members know, are also chronically underfunded. In its response to the recommendations of the standing committee, the government denied and continues to deny the need for separate legislation to fund transition houses for battered women and their children. Instead, it lauded the benefits of the current system of per diem funding under the General Welfare Assistance Act.

I believe there are few benefits and many drawbacks to the per diem funding. The funding is unreliable because it fluctuates with the occupancy rates of the houses, even though operating costs remain the same. Many houses have problems receiving per diem payments from municipalities and the payments vary from municipality to municipality. Because only women deemed eligible for welfare are covered by the funding, many houses end up paying for clients themselves, clients too rich for welfare but too poor to pay for themselves.

The real experts on transition houses are not in this Legislature today; they are the people who work for them. These people are united, as the government knows, in their desire for a new funding structure.

A survey we conducted late last fall, after the government's response, showed virtually 100 per cent support from the transition houses for block funding. These people want the per diem system changed. I hope the government will begin to listen to them and support them in their efforts.

The issue of ethnic women who suffer physical abuse and are further traumatized if they are

unable to communicate their problem and are unable to know what services are available to them because of a language barrier is one we have not really addressed.

I am very pleased to hear that the Deputy Premier said the public education campaign, for which we are all waiting, is about to go forward. I think the recommendation contained in the report, asking for a series of multilingual television and radio messages, to be done in co-operation with the ethnic communities, to inform the public about the criminality of wife battering and the specialized services that are there to offer help to battered women, is of crucial importance.

I would say—and the Deputy Premier can pass it along to the Premier (Mr. Davis) when he is next in his place—that I will not criticize this government if this is the kind of advertising it wishes to do. It is certainly a whole lot better than “Preserve it, conserve it” and the other ads which I consider to be nothing more than self-congratulatory.

If we are going to put that kind of informational advertising to the ethnic women of Ontario, and indeed to all women of Ontario, and through them to the men of Ontario, to the batterers, then I say it is a reasonable expenditure of tax dollars. It is an expenditure of tax dollars that ultimately may save the taxpayer money and, more important, may save a lot of battered women the pain of being battered.

I would urge the government to get on with this job. It is amazing how we can advertise the self-congratulatory stuff very quickly, but it takes this long to get the message out when it truly is an informational message.

I just want to make a couple of additional points before I conclude. I believe we need specific legislation to deal with the issue of wife battering. Right now there is a proliferation of agencies responding to the problem, which leads to a duplication of effort and less effective allocation of funds.

Speaking of funding, the current level does not recognize the present level of demand for services. I think this has already been alluded to, and the members will hear more about it later this afternoon. In the allocation of resources, the government must recognize the problem of battered women as an urgent priority.

It is incredible to me that community organizations must apply to the federal government or to the private sector for startup funding. Why on earth is there no provincial program in place to provide startup funding for transition houses? It

is also unbelievable that there is no provincial funding available for operating expenses for transition houses. It seems to me that overall, and I will leave it at this, we need a very coherent approach to the whole funding area.

In conclusion, I want to touch very briefly upon one of my pet peeves, pet projects as it were, out of this report. This is the proposal for victim advocacy clinics. My own community has one of the two victim advocacy clinics in Ontario, the Hiatus House complaint and support program. I want to congratulate the Provincial Secretary for Justice for having continued the funding of this program while he and the government do a comprehensive study not only of the federal report that has been prepared on the complaint and support program, but also on that program as it has evolved over the last period of time.

4 p.m.

In my judgement, the program now in place in Windsor is typical of the kinds of programs which are hit with some startup pains. I think there were some earlier negative comments, particularly in the interim report from the federal authorities, simply because the complaint and support program was not yet well known out in the community and was having startup difficulties. Since that report, the volume of case work has increased and continues to increase to this day.

I want to refer to the activity report of the complaint and support program in the first 11 months of 1983. To give members some indication of the kind of volume being handled, the total number of referrals was almost 300, of which 232 were new referrals. The source of the referrals was from all over the board: 90 from the police, 63 from the legal community, 72 from individual victims, 49 from Hiatus House itself and 23 from miscellaneous parts of the community.

As a result of those 297 referrals, a total of 222 charges were laid, 161 in family court and another 61 in criminal court. The volume over that period continued to rise. I do not have the latest statistics with me, but the indication I have is the longer the program goes on, the heavier the usage in terms of volume.

I want to say to the Provincial Secretary for Justice, since I know he is doing the review, I hope the government does not have a preconceived conclusion drawn that it wants only the victim-witness programs the Deputy Premier alluded to being set up in the crown attorney's office. I hope it will look beyond that kind of

program to the kind of program that has been set up through the complaint and support program.

In conclusion, it is fair to say a good amount has been done. Certainly the public education aspect of making people aware of this crime, of the fact that one out of every 10 families has this problem of domestic violence, is the biggest single accomplishment the social development committee may carry out in this term.

There has been some positive response from the government, but much more needs to be done to treat the victims of domestic violence, to educate the public and to begin on that long and probably very difficult road to rehabilitate the batterers. Much as we might want to throw them on to a park bench, ultimately it is not of much use to our society to ignore the problem of the batterers and not to attempt to deal with them.

Much more needs to be done, and I hope will be done in the months and years to come. I also hope the kind of work, the kind of report this committee put out, is going to continue to emanate from an all-party committee, because it sets a standard of which we can all be proud.

The Acting Speaker: Just before I recognize the next speaker, in keeping with the agreement of the House, the 14th order will be called at 4:45. Is it the wish of the House the remaining time be divided equally, or shall we just go in rotation until time runs out? Shall time be evenly apportioned?

Agreed to.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, in the more than three years I have been a member of this Legislature, being chairman of the standing committee on social development for that brief period of almost a year and a half when we studied and prepared this report was one of the most cherished times I experienced, because of the very nonpartisan nature of the deliberations, the compassion and determination of every member of the committee to focus on a horrifying and tragic side of human life, family life in particular—a crime in society that is often called the silent crime, namely, violence within the confines of the family.

It was shocking to many of us, not only as we listened to witnesses but also when we had the opportunity to face and deliberate with some of the victims of this tragedy.

I would like, first of all, to congratulate the members of the standing committee on their work. I would like specifically to refer to the member for Scarborough West, who was a mover of many elements of deliberations during the committee. I think credit should be given to

him for his deep sensitivity and the impact he had on many facets of the deliberations and eventual recommendations of this report. I would like to thank the many witnesses who appeared before the committee.

One of the fundamental results of this report is to dispel myths that have existed in society, not just for decades but for centuries. This area of violence was silenced and was not given the priority of concern that our judicial, law enforcement and social systems should have provided because of a myth that the family institution was not to be violated. This was happening within the confines of what one may term a private family matter.

We have pointed out that this is not a private matter, that the inviolability of the person supersedes the inviolability of any institution, be it the family institution or not. We have said this is a crime against society. As pointed out on the very cover of the report: "Wife battering is an intolerable act of criminal violence. Government and society must respond to this serious social problem by changing attitudes so that wife battering is no longer condoned."

Although there may be some criticism about the time frame, that the government response of November 1983 was a year forthcoming, I do not accept this. I believe we were the first provincial jurisdiction in the country to follow the federal task force report. I am proud of that and I am also proud of the government response. It has accepted the vast majority, practically most, of the recommendations of the committee.

I would like to stress that it was in the summer of 1982, while the committee was deliberating and meeting with witnesses, that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) intervened with crown attorneys and said specifically: "You must pursue this problem forcefully and give it the priority it deserves. Go after this and throw the book at the batterer."

It was in November 1982, prior to the completion of the report, that the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) demanded of all the law enforcement forces in this province that the onus not be on the victim but on the police officer to lay charges, to demand that the manual at the Ontario Police College be adapted, and that priorities be given to this.

4:10 p.m.

I certainly compliment that ministry on its response and I compliment the Ministry of Community and Social Services on its response. There are problems. I know the minister will outline some of the concerns on the funding

formula he has with the federal government in terms of some of the testing aspects of victims and some of the capital funding aspects. I know the minister is concerned.

I would like to compliment the Provincial Secretary for Justice on the public consultations that were held this year and some of the studies that have to be made, because there was a great deal of research, a lot of questions and statistics we needed but lacked. There is nothing wrong with continuing to study in order to have that information. We have stressed the immediacy of the problem in our report. What the report may lack is a study of the causes of violence. It lacks preventive measures, and so we focused on the immediate response.

I know the Minister of Community and Social Services is eagerly waiting to point out some of the solutions to the problem from his jurisdiction. So I would like to conclude by saying this matter, the privacy of the family and the desirability of preserving the family unit, certainly was never questioned by the committee.

The message was that we do not have to put up with violence within the family. The batterer must know that any assault within the family context is a crime, and society will no longer tolerate violence within the family. That is the message, and we are certainly moving in the right direction to alleviate this tragedy.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, unlike my colleagues who have spoken to date with respect to the report, I am perhaps a bit more pessimistic, not only about the results of the report but also about the government's implementation of it to date. While I think the mutual back-patting on all sides is an indication of the kind of nonpartisan work that was done by the committee, if we analyse what has happened to this report, it becomes quite clear this government in its usual fashion has hidden behind smoke and mirrors rather than addressed the real problem.

I refer to the two major recommendations, neither of which we can evaluate at this time. The first recommendation is that in all cases of wife assault it should be the police and not the victim who is required to carry on with the charges. Anecdotally, we feel the public and the police are better informed. We feel this may be happening, but we have absolutely no way of knowing what kind of effect our recommendation to the Attorney General has had, because the Attorney General in his infinite wisdom continues to neglect to ask police forces across this province to keep records, individually and separately, detailing cases of wife assault.

On the one hand, we have a general feeling this report has achieved something, and public awareness has been heightened as a result of our work. On the other hand, we cannot make any kind of statement, even a year and a half after the tabling of the report, because we simply have no way of knowing what is happening from community to community.

Let us look at the record of our Attorney General in this House in his treatment of the victim. I refer specifically to the victim many of us remember some months ago in the city of Ottawa. She wanted to come forth and decided to come forth, but because of the absolute lack of co-operation she got from the crown and the Attorney General's office, she was forced through a contempt of court charge to spend time in jail while her alleged rapist went free.

What was the response of our Attorney General in this Legislature when that occurred? Was his response to defend the rights of the victim and to say the police forces and the crown have a responsibility to provide full support for all victims and, in particular, for those victims who have the courage to come forth? No. As a matter of fact, he issued a statement in this Legislature full of distortion and innuendo, which went as far as to say this victim had her phone tapped, as a result of which he was able to ascertain that she had turned down requests that she do nude dancing, something that was totally irrelevant to the question, but which very clearly spoke to the attitude of this Attorney General and this government re the treatment of victims across Ontario.

We should make no mistake about it. The changing times are calling upon our police forces and our judicial system to act in a more expeditious manner. But if victims find themselves in the situation we witnessed in the city of Ottawa, and if we see a public mockery made of the judicial process by statements such as that made by the Attorney General of this province when he made his statement in the House, we can clearly say that the recommendations endorsed by an all-party committee are nothing more than hollow promises. That is the disposition of the most important recommendation in this report.

What is the disposition of the second most important recommendation in the report? We heard over and over again, unanimously, from women across this province who themselves have come from the grass roots to start transition houses in their own communities about the issue of block funding, so that once and for all this government could say to women across Ontario:

"The future of transition houses is secure. We will not require that you live from hand to mouth, from day to day on a per-diem contribution, simply and solely if you get the Good House-keeping seal of approval from your local municipality. We will say, as a ministry and as a government, that we endorse the right of every woman across this province to have a safe haven when she is being assaulted and beaten by her spouse, or in other cases of domestic violence."

The second most important recommendation was one of the few that was rejected without consideration by this government and by the Ministry of Community and Social Services which refused to recognize the basic principle of universality of access by women across this province. They continue to perpetuate the notion that if a local council does not enter into a cost-sharing agreement, provincial politicians will not be required to pass along the 80 per cent of the 80 per cent, 20 per cent split. That is simply unacceptable.

They also continue to refuse to recognize the notion of block funding. This government on May 15 will presumably be tabling a budget that will cover it from one fiscal year to the next, but the fiscal management that would provide security and guarantee right of access to women across this province has been denied by this government. It continues to cling to the out-moded notion that per-diem bed-and-board funding is the kind of funding we need to guarantee transition houses across the province.

That speaks to a fundamental misunderstanding of what transition houses are designed to assist. If one looks upon a transition house simply as a place to stay for a two-, three- or five-day respite, then bed and board is all that is necessary. But the minister and the government should look at the statistic that 70 per cent of women who make the ultimate decision to flee from their spouses, to leave their families and to seek a safe haven, do not return to that marriage.

One of the reasons is that as a society and as a government we have not provided the kind of support systems that would allow women to make a statement, to make a transition or to seek help before they reach the point of absolute desperation.

4:20 p.m.

A clear and compelling example of that was illustrated in the city of London when we saw that over a two-year period the number of times a woman was beaten before she finally called the police was not one, not two, not three—not two tangoing as the member for London South (Mr.

Walker) would have it—it was 35 times that woman was beaten in an escalating fashion before she finally fled the situation and called the police.

When we see those kinds of statistics, when we realize that seven women out of 10 who flee their homes and end up in transition houses will not return to their spouses, we realize the transition house is playing a role that is far greater than simply that of a bed-and-board situation.

The transition house is providing the woman with court alternatives and court support, such as the victim assistance program, which the member for Windsor-Sandwich referred to; the transition house is providing counselling, job relocation, training. The transition house in many respects is becoming for that period of time that woman's only hope, her only outlet into the outside world to provide her with assistance in building a new life for herself and very often for her children.

We cannot continue to saddle transition houses with an economic formula that says to them: "If you have 80 per cent occupancy, we will drop your per diem. If you have a measles epidemic, you could risk closure. If you are not able to garner enough financial support from the community, you can close your door. If you cannot get the Good Housekeeping seal of approval from local municipal councils, you can kiss goodbye the opportunity of having provincial funding."

It is clear that until this component of our report is addressed and until the Minister of Community and Social Services realizes the answer is not simply in setting up his self-appointed family resource centres in areas across the province that have not even indicated from the grass roots a desire to develop centres, the answer consists of listening to what the organizations have said, listening to what the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses has said, listening to what women across this province have said.

It is clear, if the minister took the time to analyse the report, that there is one issue all groups are unanimous about in their thinking, and that is that they need a guarantee of long-term block funding on an annual basis.

Frankly, I think it is great that we are having public education seminars in June, July and August to discuss the problems of wife assault. It is terrific that, at least nominally, this government has made a commitment to making sure that police forces lay the charges instead of putting women in the very difficult position of being

victim and aggressor at the same time. I think there are a number of laudable efforts in this report.

However, the government continues to turn its back on the two major recommendations: that we need hard and fast statistics from our police forces across this province to get a handle on exactly what is happening with respect to charges of domestic violence; and that until the government makes a commitment to long-term block funding, we will continue to see a situation where women are living not only in fear and violence in their homes but also in the limbo that continues when they seek help in a transition house and do not know whether they can stay an extra day or an extra week, or when they do not have access to counselling because the minister in his wisdom has decided that counselling is not a component of transition houses.

It is clear that these two fundamental principles have been absent from the government's response to our report.

While I congratulate all members who served on the committee for developing a unanimous, all-party report—something that is pretty unusual and in fact unique in a time of majority government—it seems to me that if we hide behind the hollow words of our report and the promises that have been made for conventions, publicity and promotion, we will be missing the main point and the main kernel of what must be drawn from this report.

If we are to begin on the road towards taking wife assault out of the closet, we must make sure that women and men across this province have an equal opportunity not only to extract themselves from situations of domestic violence, not only to seek justice tempered with mercy, which is due to all of us, but also to make sure that women are not forced to remain in situations of abuse and assault simply because the government is not providing and guaranteeing long-term funding to ensure that they can have those supports.

We need second-stage housing. We need counselling as a component of transition houses; transition houses cannot be only a bed and board situation. It seems to me there is a challenge ahead for this government not only to double the number of transition houses across this province but also to make sure they have ample resources not only to survive from day to day but also to guarantee their survival until we reach a point, a point I am sure we are all seeking, where we have no need for any kind of transition house because the problem of domestic violence has been dealt with.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The time allotted has been fully used.

Ms. Copps: M. le Président, j'aimerais juste faire un petit commentaire à propos de la francophonie, en disant que je pense qu'il y a certaines recommandations à propos de la francophonie--

The Acting Speaker: Is there an agreement that you are allowed to use additional time?

Ms. Copps: --qui n'ont pas été considérées, et je veux les laisser à votre disposition.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, the report of the standing committee on social development on wife battering is one of the most important reports to have come out of this Legislature, mainly because it made us aware of a very serious problem.

It made us aware of the lack of services for victims of wife battering. It made us aware of the lack of services across the province in rural areas, in northern areas, in francophone areas and with respect to special services for immigrant women. It made us very aware of the unfair treatment of battered women in the criminal justice system. It made us aware of the lack of programs for batterers. It made us aware of the lack of police understanding of the problem.

It also made us very much aware of the work that dedicated women had done over the years to try to meet the problem of the victims of wife battering with a human and compassionate approach to provide services that were not being provided by the government.

We became very much aware also of the struggle that these groups of women operating interval houses of one kind or another had to put forward to cover capital and operating costs, to pay decent wages and to avoid burnout by their volunteers, because the funding was completely inadequate to meet the needs of the victims, and to do public education, to do advocacy and counselling work and to help those women who could not go back home to get relocated, rehoused and retrained.

The all-party committee came out with an excellent report containing 47 recommendations, but the government's response to that report has been extremely disappointing.

As earlier speakers have pointed out, the main recommendation of the report was for special legislation in the field to bring the problem of wife battering into the control of the Legislature as a whole to make the policies rather than to leave it as part of the welfare system.

The proposal for block funding was also an essential part of the program to relieve the

interval houses of dependency on the municipal welfare system. We have not got that.

The government brought out a blue book in October that was supposed to indicate its response to the 47 recommendations, but if members read between the lines, there has been very little action.

4:30 p.m.

For example, the stabilizing of the funding of emergency shelters to keep the existing 42 houses from going under has been met with a very small amount of bail-out funds, which went not to all interval houses but only to the ones that appeared to have a heavy deficit; those interval houses that were about to go under did not necessarily get any help, nor did those that were facing burnout of staff.

There was no specific commitment to get new shelters started in underserviced communities. All that was provided were the 12 family resource centres in the north, most of which are not yet open and many of which are being provided with funds in areas where there was no demand when other interval houses in the same area are having to close down because they cannot get funds. This is true of Kapuskasing where there is a much larger house that is not getting funds because one of the family resource centres is going in there.

My colleagues have pointed out the other shortcomings of the family resource centre approach in the north. They are certainly not a substitute for interval houses with full services for the victims and with public education functions.

Another response by the government is these expensive consultations and seminars, one put on by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean) and one put on by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. These conferences are very expensive, because they provide the delegates with two days of meetings, lunches and dinners. The people who come are there by invitation only; about 80 per cent are government officials or police officials, and only about 20 per cent are people from the interval houses and from the community, who are equally concerned with this very serious problem.

Out of the provincial secretary's consultation we got two initiatives. If one ever saw anything that was minuscule, that is what they were. The Attorney General suggested he was going to appoint what he called witness assistants, to set up one witness assistant in each judicial district as a part of the crown attorney's office.

In the first place, apparently he is covering witnesses of all kinds, not just witnesses in wife battering cases. Second, he is dealing with the situation when it has reached the court stage, not any previous stages or any plea bargaining stages. That stage is not the place to start dealing with the situation and the assisting of witnesses. The witnesses would be answerable to the crown attorneys who are conducting the case and presumably whose witnesses they are. It is not a substitute for advocacy work with the victims and it is not going to provide anything like the amount of service to witnesses that is needed.

In the Attorney General's speech in January to this consultation, he simply said he was seeking funding for a program to place witness assistant workers in the office of the crown attorney in all 52 counties and districts. At that time, he had such a setup in only one of the 52 offices. I would be very interested to see whether his budget includes witness assistants in all 52 counties and more than one in large ones such as the York judicial district. That was a very minimal approach, but the Attorney General had to make a luncheon speech and produce something out of the hat that looked like action.

The second initiative from that consultation was by the Provincial Secretary for Justice. He said the government was going to spend \$250,000 on research into such important subjects as the question of how to serve the rural areas. Presumably, that had already been studied before some of the family resource centres were set up. If the government is going to follow that pattern, it is not going to get very much service to those areas.

He was going to announce the other projects later, but he thought they might be into the root causes of wife battering, into the difficulties of immigrant and native women and into the long-term protection of victims, which presumably means relocation, rehabilitation and rehousing.

He did not, of course, make the selecting of these research projects open to any public participation; he did not ask the interval house people, who have been working in the field for more than 10 years, whether they might undertake a research project or whether they had any research projects to recommend. In fact, they are now being approached by various ministry people for advice and consultation on some of the so-called research that is being done.

I understand the Provincial Secretariat for Justice does pay them a consultation fee, but the Minister for Community and Social Services does not. So it seems to me the interval houses

have a role to play in any research that is being done.

The third initiative that has come from the government is the appointment of two co-ordinators to deal with the problem of battered wives.

In the throne speech the government described the problem as an intolerable social problem. It has got to that stage, but it seems to me its tolerance of the kind of response that is needed to an intolerable program is rather broad in that it continues to tolerate the problem in a great many areas by lack of development of more interval houses, new programs in the criminal justice system and public education in the field. It is going to continue as an intolerable social problem as long as the government goes in for such weak initiatives.

Of these two co-ordinators, we have one appointed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and one appointed by the Ontario women's directorate. If one reads the description of them by the ministers concerned, or some of the government releases on them, it sounds like the greatest case of duplication and overlapping that we have in the government; and it is hard to top some of the overlapping and duplication in this government. They are both concerned with prevention; they are both concerned with liaising with interval houses; they are both concerned with public education.

I understand the directorate co-ordinator has trouble getting information from the Community and Social Services co-ordinator; I do not know whether it is the other way around as well. So they come to the interval houses for information on what is going on.

This appointment of high-priced co-ordinators is a good window-dressing initiative, but if a lot of that money had been used to provide more grants for services to be provided by interval houses and for new interval houses, it would have been better spent.

The whole question of data collection was brought out by the committee, and yet I do not think I have seen any initiatives from either the Attorney General or the Minister of Community and Social Services that would give us up-to-date reports on the number of wife battering cases and their nature. Many police forces still do not separate wife battering from other statistics of people in crisis, particularly family crises of various kinds. We still do not really know the extent of the problem, and that seems to me to be one of the places where we should start.

4:40 p.m.

The main approach seems to be a typical Tory approach: lots of speeches and public relations about how important the problem is, how serious it is and what we are going to do when we put some money where our mouth is. However, so far that has not happened very much. Doing it on the cheap seems to be the main approach, particularly as far as the family resource centres go.

The model budgets for it do not allow for any double shift at night, so there is a woman on the night shift by herself, without any backup, in a position where there is often a need for security measures.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member. Her time has expired.

Ms. Bryden: I would just like to add a final thing, that passing the buck to Ottawa is a large part of the government's response, particularly with respect to the operating costs.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, at the beginning, I would like to point out a couple of facts. The response of this ministry to the standing committee was made on March 2, 1983. It took the committee by surprise. Let us not say there was no response by the government or by this ministry for several months. It was on March 2, 1983, because I was invited to be there and to make such a response. As a matter of fact, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) moved the motion in the committee.

The government of Ontario is committed to the elimination of family violence in this province. As the Minister of Community and Social Services, I am very proud of what the ministry has done, in particular since 1981, is doing now and is planning to do in the future in identifying and taking action against this type of domestic violence.

We have heard from many speakers today that it was not long ago that wife battering was hidden behind closed doors. Victims did not talk about it; society in general either did not know it was taking place or did not want to know about it, nor did professionals.

Fortunately, the situation is changing. I think the public now recognizes that wife battering is a crime, that an assault is still an assault, even if the victim and assailant are related or legally connected. This was amply outlined in a very eloquent way in the committee by the chairman at that time, the member for High Park-Swansea.

I will outline the activities of the ministry to counteract family violence in four very special areas, namely, expanding transition homes and

setting up family resource centres in the north; improving the funding for transition homes; prevention and education; and professional training.

First, the transition house system for women and their children, the victims of violence, has come a long way since the mid-1970s when the first house with 18 beds opened on Spadina Road in Toronto. My ministry today supports more than 1,000 places for battered women and their children. We are at present operating 45 transition houses across the province and another 17 multipurpose hostels for women and their families.

Last year we allocated \$1.7 million in capital grants to the establishment of 12 family resource centres in northern Ontario communities. Six of the 12 have already been announced and the remaining six will be under construction this summer. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and I will open one in Sturgeon Falls on May 11. I will convey to them the very derogatory remarks of the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps).

Ms. Copps: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the minister, in his rather untoward way, could be a bit specific about any derogatory remarks. What the member for Hamilton Centre said was that family resource centres were not going to be the only solution to a multipronged problem. I wish the minister would invite me to join him in Sturgeon Falls, because I would be very happy to convey that expression to every person at the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate if you would add 30 seconds to my time.

The Acting Speaker: No, we will not. You have the time that is left. Those are the House rules. The minister has three minutes, 17 seconds.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Parallel to the expansion of the transition house system for women and children has been the evolution of a new funding system. The new funding formula currently in operation recognizes the unique nature of these shelters and ensures a basic level of staffing and service in all of them.

Last year \$4 million in new money for services for battered women and their children was provided. Most of that new money is being spent on increased operating subsidies for transition houses and on the new family resource centres I mentioned a moment ago. An amount of \$337,000 was spent in 1983-84 to assist transition houses with immediate financial problems.

As a government, we said none would fail. For the coming year, about \$3.2 million has been allocated in the ministry's base budget for the long-term stabilization of transition houses.

I feel sure members will agree that action in these areas is essential, particularly in prevention, if we are to prevent family violence. My ministry and the women's directorate are working together to combat this appalling social problem.

The film library of this program currently lends to professionals and concerned nonprofessionals, free of charge, films on the subject of wife assault. The prevention program is creating two types of prevention kits, one for the general public and another for professional people. The kit for the general public will define the nature of the problem, suggest ways of dealing with the problem and describe the services available to help the victims. In the professional kit, the underlying causes of family violence will be discussed, various prevention measures explained and methods of counselling suggested.

Hand in hand with prevention goes education; my staff has also turned its attention to this aspect. Discussions with native organizations are being held. My ministry is being particularly sensitive to cultural and language differences. We have to be attentive to helping native women recognize and forestall family violence through information in their own language. At the same time, we will develop pamphlets and brochures in other languages for new Canadians and handbooks for various organizations of immigrants, and we will help immigrant women to avoid or to counteract family violence. This will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

We will also be directing a program to young people in the high schools. Again, this will be a joint ministry effort involving the Ministry of Education, the women's directorate and the Social Development and Justice policy fields.

We will also be doing a great deal of work in training. Indeed, many of the seminars that have been held were not just occasions for people to exchange views; they laid a very solid foundation for the training programs that are going to be increasingly necessary, because as we begin to meet the problems we know of today, we are going to meet new challenges and we are going to have to deal with increasingly more difficult cases because of the manner in which this particularly intolerable blight on our society has tended to operate.

Motion agreed to.

**REPORT, STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
CHILD ABUSE
(concluded)**

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the second report of the standing committee on social development on family violence: child abuse.

The Acting Speaker: Is there general agreement that the time will be shared on this and, if so, what amount of time for each speaker? How much time is there altogether?

Assistant Clerk: Approximately 31 minutes for each party.

The Acting Speaker: There is approximately 31 minutes for each party; so would we say 15 minutes to each—

Mr. Robinson: With respect, Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult to have 93 minutes in the remaining 72 minutes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Seventy-two minutes would be 24 minutes each.

The Acting Speaker: Shall we go 10 minutes each?

Mr. Robinson: If I may I speak to the point, Mr. Speaker, what we did on the last matter, while I was occupying the chair, was simply to divide the time available for the debate, which is now approximately 70 minutes, by three and let the three parties use whatever portion of it they wish.

The Acting Speaker: Bully. That sounds just fine. The honourable member may proceed, starting now.

Mr. Robinson: Are we adding up now? What are we adding up?

The Acting Speaker: We will split it three ways, and you will know how much total time there is for your party.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, it is my very distinct pleasure to return to the debate, the adjournment of which I moved upon introducing this report from the standing committee on social development last December, dealing specifically with the area of family violence and the topic of child abuse.

When I introduced the report to the House at that time, I made some very brief comments, one or two of which I would like to reiterate today for the sake of debate and for the record. The first

one is that the committee considered this report on the basis of a declaration of the rights of a child proposed and supported by the United Nations some time ago.

Part of that declaration says: "A child shall enjoy special protection and shall be given opportunities and facilities by law and by other means to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be paramount." With that rather high ideal in mind, the committee went on for a number of weeks and through many witnesses to develop the report that is before the House now.

The most shocking fact we came across in our deliberations, and one that flies completely in the face of the declaration I just shared with you, was that one girl in four and one boy in 10 will be sexually molested by an adult at some time during his or her childhood. It was against that very real, stark and unhappy backdrop we brought this report before the House and are debating it today.

Currently, the Child Welfare Act establishes the statutory framework for the protection of children in Ontario. Several witnesses drew to the committee's attention sections of that act they found to be inadequate or impractical from the perspective of preventing child abuse and also other sections those witnesses claimed were simply not being enforced. I will speak to those in greater detail in a moment.

Under the Child Welfare Act, children's aid societies must not only investigate allegations of abuse and protect children, but also prevent abuse by providing guidance and counselling to the families in question. The committee was told time and time again of the conflict that arises between the protective and the treatment aspects of the CASs' responsibilities. Accordingly, we have recommended that the mandate of children's aid societies under the Child Welfare Act be altered.

We want children's aid societies to retain and maintain their primary responsibility for the protection of children. However, we also recognize that major treatment and family support services should be provided by other agencies, but in a multi-agency model relating back to the children's aid societies as the prime movers.

The mandatory reporting provisions in the Child Welfare Act were the subject of extensive testimony and resulting extensive press coverage at the time. The Child Welfare Act requires

everyone in Ontario to report to a CAS any information he has on the abuse of a child. In addition, professionals and officials must report cases of suspected child abuse. If they fail to do so, they may be prosecuted and, if convicted, fined up to \$1,000.

The committee learned, notwithstanding those provisions, that each year—the estimates vary because it is hard to nail down the number—somewhere between 500 and 1,000 serious cases of abuse, by the most conservative of estimates, are not coming to the attention of children's aid societies. In March 1983, when we were holding public hearings, we were surprised to discover that no professional or official at that time had ever been prosecuted for nonreporting. Since that time a number of professionals have faced criminal charges in this matter.

The committee viewed the underreporting by professionals as seriously undermining the work of children's aid societies in their efforts to protect children. We place a special responsibility on professional faculties, governing bodies and associations to ensure their students and members are aware of their statutory reporting obligations. It is also essential that nonreporting by professionals be followed, as we said earlier, by a more vigorous laying of charges and a pursuit through the judicial process.

Once verified by a CAS, the case of abuse is supposed to be recorded in the central child abuse register. We found more difficulty and more conflicting evidence in this regard. The register is a creation of the Child Welfare Act, which will eventually become part of the proposed Child and Family Services Act, which the committee has also studied more recently.

Previously, before June 15, 1979, at least, there had not been a formal registry. It had been kept more as a matter of administrative policy. Following the establishment of the present formal registry, the number of reports by CASs actually declined. There was seemingly a greater reluctance by professionals to commit themselves to commit information to a formal registry. Evidence presented to the committee for the years 1981 and 1982 disclosed that CASs did not report for registration more than half their verified cases.

We feel strongly the register should continue, but be made more effective. In furtherance of that objective, we have proposed the criteria for registration be broadened to include not only verified cases of abuse, but also those cases where there are reasonable and probable grounds to suspect abuse. This becomes a thorny issue

between those things that are actual and those that are suspicious.

The need for interprofessional co-operation is the theme that surfaces throughout our report. We feel such co-operation is crucial at all stages—investigation, assessment, treatment and disposition of a case of child abuse. So does the Metropolitan Chairman's Special Committee on Child Abuse. It notes in its statements of principle that effective response requires the full co-operation and co-ordination of all systems. In our report we commend the Metro committee for its excellent work in preparing a child sexual abuse protocol.

CASs throughout the province should examine the protocol's co-ordinated approach and consider adapting it to local conditions. The committee's report emphasizes that professionals must receive more extensive training on the subject of child abuse. The committee is deeply concerned that in-service training of CAS workers often takes place on an ad hoc and not a co-ordinated basis. As a result, we have recommended that the Ministry of Community and Social Services introduce standards and guidelines for in-service training programs for child protection workers.

Another significant issue for the committee was the role of the criminal justice system. The issue also arose last year during our hearings on wife battering. In our first report on family violence, as the members have just heard, we stressed that police officers must be instructed to lay charges in wife assault cases. We have reached the same conclusion, perhaps even more stridently, on the heinous act of child abuse.

Theoretically, abusers may be prosecuted under the Criminal Code or the Child Welfare Act. In practice, few charges are laid, and then usually under the Criminal Code. It is our strong opinion as a committee that any assault, whether against a child or an adult, is a criminal offence. No matter what form the abuse may take, prosecution will demonstrate to the offender society's intolerance of the breach of its laws.

The committee recognizes that the criminal justice system has certain deficiencies when cases of child abuse are prosecuted. For instance, there is the potentially traumatic effect on a child victim who must testify in court about the abuse. In our report we have recommended special measures, such as the use of anatomically correct dolls, to help overcome the obstacles posed by the criminal process.

In consideration of those things, we also took great heed of the need for children to be interviewed as few times as possible, and then in

a most comprehensive and organized way. We learned from evidence that often when a child is required to tell a story eight or nine times—and I am sure my friend the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) remembers this—his natural creativity and his own boredom with the repetition of the telling of the tale would cause him to alter certain details, not in any malicious way but simply by being imaginative and exploring the situation as it develops.

Therefore, to make evidence more effective, we are recommending that the child or victim and other witnesses, child witnesses, be interviewed the fewest times, yet the most comprehensive number of times, necessary.

In the long term the real answer to child abuse lies in prevention. Preventive services should be locally developed to meet local issues and should include, among other things, parenting courses, parent-support groups for abusive parents, drop-in centres and hot lines. Those services also have a treatment component, but in the long term if preventive efforts are to succeed, a change in attitude is really necessary. In this regard, public education programs must be conducted in our schools and in the community. Students must be taught nonviolent problem-solving techniques, and they must be taught through a hands-on approach, actually dealing with children.

5 p.m.

I move on in my remarks to say that when the committee travelled to Kenora and then to the Grassy Narrows reserve to hear further witnesses nearly a year ago now, the evidence presented in the north contributed to one of our major recommendations, the need for the movement towards native autonomy. It is a larger issue of overall autonomy, of our interests particularly, and the necessary autonomy in the provision of child welfare service. It must be accelerated in your committee's opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Among our other recommendations, very briefly—and I do not want to take up all of the time allotted to the government—in order to assist in the identification of high-risk families, families where incidents of child abuse may be more likely or may be more frequent, a uniform checklist should—

Mr. Stokes: You mean the Conservative Party, not the government. The time allocation is on a party basis.

Mr. Robinson: I thank the member for Lake Nipigon. I was simply indicating that I—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Ignore the interjections.

Mr. Robinson: The minister says I should ignore the interjections.

I do not want to take up all of the time available for us over here, however we may be, of whatever condition.

I wanted to make the point, and I know my friend the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) would want me to make it because it was certainly one of her priorities, that in order to assist in the identification of those high-risk families, a uniform checklist should be used by all hospital emergency rooms in Ontario when dealing with alleged accidental injuries to children.

There should also be multidisciplinary child abuse teams established at the case management level so there can be some intercession before the matter goes in one direction or another. As well, the obligation to report suspected cases of child abuse should not be contingent upon the abuse being caused or permitted by the person who has charge of the child; that is a recommendation of no small significance in Ontario either.

Wherever possible, at the sentencing stage, after the whole criminal justice process has occurred, there should be a specific plan of treatment for the abuser. It should be proposed in court and it should be followed up.

Children's aid societies must make every effort to identify the child's welfare needs with respect to the ethnocultural community and its own background.

The report goes on to make many other recommendations; eventually it takes us as far as 44 in total. I commend not only the report but also its recommendations to the House.

I would be remiss if in concluding my brief remarks I did not also commend all members of the standing committee on social development who served in the preparation of this report. As my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) noted earlier in the matter of wife abuse, there was even more outstanding co-operation in the area of child abuse. There is no one in this House and no one on that committee who would not likely recognize child abuse to be the most heinous of all crimes in our society.

I am pleased that in the intervening time—it is somewhat interesting in a legislative way that so much time can go by—the Ministry of Community and Social Services, in concert with the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development and the areas of Justice responsibility, has already taken such major steps to make so many of these recommendations reality; and equally

that they, like all members of the provincial assembly, recognize the necessity of coming to grips with this problem in the most gripping of fashions.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege for me to serve on this committee and I want to commend all members of the committee, especially the chairman, who handled some very sensitive and trying issues. For one so young—I can say this at my age—he exhibited a maturity and a sensitivity that was appreciated by all members.

Not having a background in this work, I certainly found it a revelation. One of the things I just wanted to express to all members is the realization that came to me of the tremendous responsibility and weight that we put on the shoulders of those people who work for children's aid societies. They have to balance their dual roles: being social workers and trying to bring guidance, counselling and assistance to troubled families, and at the same time having the authority, I believe the necessary authority, to have to say to those families:

"There is a bottom line. I am here to do all the work I can possibly do as an individual, with my limited budget and with my limited help and tremendous work load, but you have to do something too or under my authority I am going to bring in the final bottom line, which is the right of the courts to take the child away from you."

I do not know of very many people on whom we place such an onerous burden, unless it is a physician or someone in the health care field dealing with life-and-death circumstances where they decide to take some final last chance that might help the person or let nature take its course.

The children's aid society workers are almost in that same position because they are making what turns out in many cases to be life-and-death decisions. Unhappily, in the odd case, it has been death, but they are also dealing with the life of that family and the life of that child and in the larger sense I guess it is the life of the community. I can only say I have to take my hat off to people who decide on a career as social workers.

I do wonder if we give them the support they fully need in this job. As I understand it, they are largely people from middle-class families and maybe even upper-class families of the socio-economic order. They attend high school, they attend university, and they come out with social worker's degrees. I really wonder if we have prepared them for the hard knocks they are going to receive or the difficult decisions they have to

make. They follow the same course of education as for many other areas where the results of the novice decisions are not so far-reaching and where we can afford a few mistakes, but in this area we require these people to make decisions and we cannot allow them to make mistakes. I will just bring that to members' attention.

We ask for co-operation. It became evident in the terms of the committee that there are so many areas that require co-operation, and yet as we organize ourselves in society, we take courses in universities and we come out with a label, and every one of us who comes out feels he is an expert in that field. We tend to discount people who are in other areas of the social system.

It is very difficult to convince those people that they should yield to someone who has a different degree or perhaps even to someone who does not have a degree. I have seen many instances of this in my own field, which is an entirely different field. I can well understand that we do have problems of co-operation.

What hit all of us the hardest was not the physical abuse but the extent of sexual abuse. I guess we can understand that people have a physical nature to them. We tend to strike out at our enemies, we tend to act and think later, so it is somewhat understandable, although we certainly do not condone the action of hurting a child.

I think there were many of us on the committee who did not realize the harm that can come from striking a child, or who did not realize that by shaking a child under two years of age, an action I think many of us have seen within our own families—it is not all that uncommon—can actually cause brain damage in that child, as can heavy blows. There can be psychological damage as well.

5:10 p.m.

The one that shocked us all, because we did not know the extent of it, was the matter of sexual abuse. We were shocked by the material that was shown to us, some of which would never pass the censor. About eight weeks ago, I attended weekend seminars in Toronto, one of which was put on by Citizens for Decency and the other by the Coalition against Violence in the Media. Both seminars were actually sickening in the effect they had upon the participants. I did not sleep well, feel well or function well for a couple of weeks afterwards, because some of the things I saw were so overwhelming.

I mentioned this to other people who attended. One who attended part-time was the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams). I do not know whether he stayed there all day and saw some of the worst of

it, as I did, but those I have talked to who stayed there for the entire day indicated their whole being had been affected for some time.

They had a chap from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was the only person who dealt with material that was not available across the counter. All the other people were dealing with items available across the counter. He told us about a group of people who exist both in the United States and Canada who go by the name of paedophiles.

Those people are often accused of being homosexuals, when in fact they are a group of people who cannot relate to other adults, but can only relate in a sexual way to children. The things they are capable of doing defy the imagination. Each of those people claims a child as a victim for a period of only about two years. In the course of their sexually active lives, they can deal with 20 or more children.

The FBI man told us about a network these people have in the United States and Canada of letter-writing and bookkeeping situations whereby they pass the names of their victims on to one another. They even discovered a group of people who were doing this with the aid of computers. He showed us some of the computer printouts they had confiscated which listed the names and activities of the various children.

A very shocking thing they brought to us was about some of the innocent things that happen in every family, such as photographing a young child of two or three years of age in the bathtub, which is not uncommon. In the hands of paedophiles, these become materials they collect.

They even collect materials such as one would find on the front page of a fashion magazine. They showed one of the most popular fashion magazines with a 10-year-old girl depicting frontal nudity. I suppose in the eyes of Victorians that would be pretty shocking, but in this modern age we look at those things and say, "Is that not cute?" We are accustomed to it and do not think much of it. In the hands of a paedophile, that becomes very arousing material they use to carry on their nefarious work.

What I really wish to raise is the fact that in both the studies we have done we have uncovered a lot of items out there that bother us, but we really have not uncovered many of the causes. It seems to me that what is left unfinished and desperately cries out to be done is a study to find some of the causes. Surely, one of those causes has to be the present media and the things we

accept as normal on television and in the area of videocassettes.

This brings up the whole question of how we stand as civil libertarians, bearing in mind that each of us has been brought up with a background of toleration for other people and for the acts of other people, to try to allow as much freedom in our society as we possibly can. That has worked fairly well within the society up until very recently, because one could find most of the things we were talking about in literature, in plays or the Art Gallery of Ontario.

One could see some of the old masters which, in the view of some of the people who attended this conference, were actually the pornography of the day. We look upon them as great art. The people who analysed this point out it was the pornography of that age. It was seen by very few people, mostly educated people who could absorb it and take it in a context that was not harmful to society. Today, these items are available to all ages, to all children, and we are bringing them up with a background of that sort of material. We have to go back and examine some of our precepts and stands on the matter of censorship and civil libertarianism.

I tend to have some sympathy for the stand of my colleagues on the left who say we should not have censorship, that we should prosecute those people who step beyond what we accept as normal. Under our censorship system, we do the policing. We cut out the items we find objectionable; we cut out only a minimum, allowing a great deal of material to go through. We do their work for them.

On the other hand, we would put the onus upon these people if we were to allow them to show whatever they wanted to show, take the risk of being charged with obscenity and carrying on obscene acts, having their material completely removed, bringing charges against their theatres, and so on.

I am not sure which is the proper approach, but I have some sympathy for both of them.

Mr. Stokes: The member is saying the Criminal Code is ineffectual in its present form.

Mr. McGuigan: Absolutely. It is ineffective in its present form; however, that is being addressed and we hope when the Criminal Code is changed, we will—

Mr. Stokes: By your namesake?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes, by my namesake. We hope it will deal with those problems.

I have covered some of the things that impressed me as an individual. In closing, I would be wrong to say it was a pleasure because

many of the things we went through were really not pleasurable; nevertheless, it was a great experience and I am glad to have taken part in this work.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in the debate on the second report on family violence: child abuse, of the standing committee on social development. I must confess to members of the House that I came in on this part of the report late in the game. I had three or four weeks on the child abuse section. I really did not understand all the legislation, or start to, until we got into the new Child Welfare Act a little later on, but I do have some impressions I want to pass on to the House.

I also want to say I found it a working committee and an interesting committee. I tip my hat to its chairman and staff in keeping it on topic and not as combative and controversial as some committees of this House I have sat on.

Certainly, Philip Kaye, Albert Nigro, Kathleen Finlay, Merike Madisso and Lynn Mellor all were helpful to me on that committee in getting the information together and understanding what was going on.

5:20 p.m.

I have to say, and I want to come back to it, that if there is a shortcoming here and in the changes we might be taking a look at with respect to the Child Welfare Act, it is in whether or not we are going to have an adequate children's bill of rights in the legislation. That was a legitimate point a number of people raised.

Like other speakers, I too was appalled at the extent of the abuse problem. In our report we commented that the Ministry of Community and Social Services estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 children in Ontario are physically hurt, emotionally abused or sexually assaulted each year. Yet the more we heard from the witnesses before us, the more it became evident that was probably a very small figure. It is probably much larger than that in total. Certainly, if any of the indications of sexual abuse are accurate, there is a bigger problem in that itself.

I also want to make a brief comment on the help I got from the staff and the way the committee was handled by the chairman. Since this was a completely new field for me, it was made easier by the contribution of my colleague the member for Scarborough West. He made a major contribution to this committee. He knew what the act was all about. There may have been some arguments over the positions he took with other members on the committee, but it was a heck of a lot easier having somebody there who

knew the issues and the problems. He tried all the way through to deal constructively with some of the problems he thought we should be taking a look at in society today.

I went quickly through the recommendations in the report, of which there are 44 and which the chairman of the committee referred to earlier, and noted the number to which my colleague made a specific contribution. Early in the game it became apparent that one of the problems we had was a lack of adequate information and research in Ontario. We did not have the native research that was necessary, the long-term studies of child abuse victims in Ontario and of the environmental factors.

We heard from a number of people. I was impressed even more recently, when we were discussing the proposed Child and Family Services Act, with the comments of Douglas Barr of the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto on the growing feeling that one of the problems of child abuse and family violence is the economic problems we are facing in society today.

He talked of the desperate attempts of people to maintain their homes and an adequate diet, and said there was nothing left over when it comes to the children being able to come anywhere near the norms in the schools they may attend or having a little extra to take in some recreational activities, camp activities or whatever. Environmental factors and economic factors, diet included, caused some of the problems. I did not give much credit to one or two of the presentations on diet, but we had people before us who indicated the effect an improper diet could have in terms of family reaction to children and abuse of the children.

The very first recommendation in the report, that the Ministry of Community and Social Services must encourage and fund research into the whole problem, and long-term studies in particular, is a valid one. While there is some cost associated with that, it may give us a better direction, or a better handle, on what the best recommendations are that are made in the report itself in total and what might produce the most results.

The second recommendation, that the Child Welfare Act must be amended to encourage the development of an interagency, multidisciplinary model for the prevention of child abuse, with the children's aid societies retaining primary responsibility, was a good one. I know the interagency and multidisciplinary approach received a lot of discussion in the committee. It

makes some sense to me that we should try to pull together the best minds to give some direction in the approach we are going to take to the problems we face. That was an area a number of members on the committee spent some time on, but it was of particular interest to my colleague the member for Scarborough West.

As a result of some of the problems with the children's aid societies, there was a call for an operational review process, with complete reviews of each children's aid society to be done as soon as possible to take a look at how they handle specific cases. I think it was a valid point that was made.

There was a call, under "Identification and Assessment," for the Ministry of Health, together with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, to convene a joint meeting of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Public Health Association "in order to develop a general procedure for consistent, province-wide information-taking at birth" and for this mechanism to be "integrated into regular hospital procedures to help in the detection of high-risk families," which got some discussion. It was aimed at trying to put us a little more on the preventive approach to the problems so we would know where to zero in and where we were most likely to have trouble in terms of child abuse.

In terms of treatment, the call for priority to be given to the funding of local child abuse treatment and prevention programs and the establishment of local, multidisciplinary child abuse teams made a lot of sense to me. It was an area on which we spent some time and I think it is a positive approach.

The mandatory reporting provisions are a positive approach. There are several recommendations under that section, including: "The Child Welfare Act must be amended to require all persons, including professionals and officials, to make a report to the CAS when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has suffered abuse or is otherwise in need of protection." It almost seems like motherhood.

"The Child Welfare Act must be amended to allow professionals, when reporting cases of suspected child abuse, to communicate any information which led to that suspicion without having committed a breach of confidentiality." That area got a considerable amount of discussion in the committee. The recommendation may seem a little bit contrary. I do not think so; I think it is a valid one.

These were all areas that were of concern to my colleague the member for Scarborough West in our deliberations in the committee.

Under "Judicial System," recommendation 24 struck me as being important, and a part of it very important. I will just read it into the record:

"The Ministry of the Solicitor General through the Ontario Police Commission should instruct municipal and provincial police forces in Ontario to lay charges in child abuse cases when they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe that abuse has occurred. If charges under the Criminal Code are not possible, consideration should be given to the laying of charges under subsection 47(2) of the Child Welfare Act.

"It is recognized that the criminal justice system has certain deficiencies when cases of child abuse are prosecuted; steps must be taken to overcome these deficiencies. These steps should include, among others: (1) the questioning of a victim by a multiprofessional team to reduce the number of interviews; and (2) the use of anatomically correct dolls to prepare the child for court and to assist the child when testifying."

We heard a number of times about the fact that one could go through two or three interviews in the same case and especially where child abuse and sexual abuse were involved. It became very difficult. It was possible to end up with different answers. If we are going to have an adequate approach, it has to be a team approach and probably done once, or only with follow-ups, as long as all the disciplines are there.

"The crown and defence counsel, in consultation with the CAS and specialized treatment facilities, should, whenever possible, propose to the court a specific plan of treatment for the abuser. The court should also have available a pre-sentence report which assesses the appropriateness of the treatment order." In other words, it was suggested that the authorities should be there to suggest a particular line of treatment or approach.

5:30 p.m.

There was some discussion about the responsibility of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to introduce standards and guidelines for in-service training and preparing programs for child protection workers. Once again it almost sounds like motherhood, but it is a step that needs to be taken. We need some consistency in the training programs.

There was a call for sufficient funds for agencies and their budgets to permit agency workers to attend training courses at the Ontario

Centre For The Prevention Of Child Abuse, which was a valid recommendation as well.

A number of the recommendations do involve funding, and that, I know, in these times is always difficult. On the other hand, I do not know of anything more important than dealing with this problem we are faced with in respect of child abuse, and there are probably few topics that will raise public concern and sympathy for positive actions or programs more quickly than when talking about child abuse.

Probably if there was an area of shortcoming, in our opinion, the prevention end of it was it. We are not dealing with the role that day care may play either with respect to child abuse or in the more recent section that we dealt with on the new Child Welfare Act changes, and this is to be lamented. I think it is important that we do take a serious look at what all of the preventive roles are, and there is no question in my mind that day care is one of the preventive roles.

Recommendation 36 says: "The Ministry of Community and Social Services should develop a public education program to inform the public about the problem of child abuse and the obligation to report cases of suspected child abuse. In developing this program the ministry should be sensitive to the multilingual nature of Ontario society." It would be difficult for any of us on the committee to argue with that recommendation, and I do not think any of us did.

Recommendation 39 says: "The Ministry of Education should develop guidelines for mandatory family studies courses. Such courses should teach nonviolent problem solving and include a 'hands-on' approach." I know of few other sections in the report that were stressed more positively and with more feeling and passion by my colleague the member for Scarborough West than this approach.

If there was another area in the recommendations and in our deliberations in the report that we stressed as strongly, it probably was with respect to the native people and the obvious necessity of setting up an awful lot more control by the native people themselves over the development and delivery of services and programs to deal with the problem within the native community.

I think they also have to develop, as recommendation 42 says, "a different formula for the funding of social services in the north." The funding arrangement has to "take into account the unique problems which hinder the delivery of social services to northern communities and fund them accordingly."

In the whole area of our native people, where so much of the problem seems to exist, I find it difficult to accept that we can impose our standards, if you like, our ideas of treatment, our ideas of the family unit on a culture and a people who just do not operate by the kinds of standards and guidelines we have. I think that is why we have been in so much trouble in looking after the whole question of child abuse in the native and northern communities. We have to look seriously at some rather major changes in our approach in that area.

Those areas are the ones that stood out in my mind, and I must confess that they were highlighted and made easier for me to understand by the arguments—I think very good arguments—that were made by the member for Scarborough West.

I would like to finish by saying simply that I think we have to take a look at a bill of rights for children, called for often during the hearings on child abuse, a number of times by a number of groups, and certainly something we have asked for in the changes in the Child Welfare Act.

While I understand the arguments some people make when they ask, "Hey, what does a code really tell you?" I think this issue is so important to us that points which were made in this House five years ago by my colleague our party whip—or his whipship, as we call him here—are valid recommendations.

There should be a basic code for every child in the province that covers the right to food, clothing and housing to ensure good health and personal development; the right to an environment free from physical abuse, exploitation and degrading treatment; the right to health care necessary to promote physical and mental health and to remedy illness; the right to reside with parents and siblings except where it is in the best interests of the child for the child to reside elsewhere; the right to parental and adult support guidance and continuity in the child's life; the right to an education that will ensure every child the opportunity to reach and exercise his or her full potential; the right to play and recreation.

It should cover the right to have his or her opinions heard and to be included to the greatest extent possible when any decisions are being made affecting his or her life; the right to independent adult counselling and legal assistance in relation to all decisions affecting guardianship, custody or a determination of status; the right to a competent interpreter where language or a disability is a barrier in relation to all decisions affecting guardianship, custody or a

determination of status; the right to an explanation of all decisions affecting guardianship, custody or a determination of status; and the right to be informed of the rights of children and to have them applied and enforced.

Having that kind of set of rules or children's bill of rights set out in the recommendations would probably indicate, more clearly even than the recommendations we have here, our priority in establishing treatment, care and standards for children that will help us not only to mobilize public opinion to do away with the problems we have, the deficiencies that cause the problems, but also to remedy and make the changes in legislation that are needed to guarantee protection for children who are abused in society.

I thank the chairman for the opportunity, and I thank the committee for what was for me a valuable learning experience. I think the recommendations are excellent. I have to say only this: I have sat on many committees in my eight short years in this Legislature where we have made a number of very good recommendations, and I have seen very few recommendations, whether on pensions, plant closures, the Ontario health insurance plan or whatever, that have actually seen the light of legislation.

I have a growing cynicism—and I do not like it—as to whether good work such as I think was done by this committee and other good recommendations that are made are really going to see the light of day anywhere near in total as to the changes that are needed in legislation. I guess that is my biggest, single complaint about how we do things in this House.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that for many months the ministry has not only launched but also engaged in an all-out war against child abuse in this province. It is a war we are waging on many fronts, using a range of tactics. I can say without hesitation that I believe our efforts on behalf of abused children in this province are second to none on the continent.

In the forefront of our battle to overcome child abuse is the Ontario Centre For The Prevention Of Child Abuse. This provincial child abuse training and resource centre was announced in late summer of 1983 and opened in Toronto in November 1983. It is a joint project of my ministry, the Canadian Children's Foundation and professionals from a variety of disciplines in the community as a whole.

As one of the first such centres in North America, this centre represents a whole new direction in the struggle against child abuse. We are confident it will become the model for all of

North America. The board of directors of the centre is made up of pre-eminent, concerned and experienced professionals.

The chairman of the board is Dr. Robert Bates, a well-known paediatrician at the Hospital For Sick Children and a man renowned for his work in the field of child abuse prevention. Other board members include a judge, a public health nurse, two child psychiatrists, a director of a children's aid society, a police officer and a dean of social work, just to name a few of the professionals involved.

I might bring the members up to date on some of the major activities of the centre because, first of all, the centre has brought together all three of the ministry's ongoing child abuse prevention activities. I refer to the children's aid society training courses—the Garber training—our ministry's child abuse prevention program and the child abuse register.

5:40 p.m.

At the same time, the centre is providing multidisciplinary training courses for professionals throughout the province who work with children. What the centre is doing through these courses is providing an opportunity for professionals from a range of disciplines to meet, exchange information and learn about child abuse prevention together. In my view, that is one of the most exciting aspects of the centre.

Since late last year four such multidisciplinary training courses have been held. Professionals from interprofessional child abuse committees in 12 different communities have attended. These communities are, and I think they exemplify the wide impact of the centre, Renfrew, Sudbury-Manitoulin, Windsor-Essex, Niagara, Brampton, Frontenac, Algoma, Bruce, Halton, Nipissing, Simcoe and Durham.

The professionals attending the courses include police officers, paediatricians, lawyers, public health nurses, children's aid society workers and other professionals who work with children. The courses provide training in early identification of child abuse, skilled investigation, treatment of child abuse victims and effective prevention of child abuse, as well as information on working with the courts. The aim of the courses is to assist professionals to work effectively together to combat child abuse in their own communities.

During 1984 we plan to provide 17 training sessions for multidisciplinary professionals from up to 51 communities. I am confident the multidisciplinary training offered by these centres will serve to increase the understanding,

co-operation and effective action among professionals who come up against child abuse in their work.

As I have said, the Ontario Centre For The Prevention Of Child Abuse is one of our major new fronts in the war against child abuse, but it is not the only front. My ministry is also seeking to clarify the law surrounding child abuse and child abuse reporting through the draft legislation for the proposed Child and Family Services Act.

Let me outline some of the proposals in that draft legislation that deal with child abuse. In the area of professional reporting on child abuse cases, one of the proposals in the draft act broadens the type of information that must be reported to include suspicion and all information upon which it is based. This means professionals will have greater latitude and legal protection in offering their professional opinions on suspected child abuse cases. We are confident that will enhance professional reporting of this serious problem.

At the same time, the professionals upon whom the duty to report abuse is being imposed are listed in the draft act. They include health care, educational, religious, law enforcement, legal and social service professionals.

The new draft act also provides for the establishment of interdisciplinary abuse review committees that will review and recommend actions to be taken to protect children believed to have been abused. The new act gives the committees access to information that might otherwise be confidential in order to facilitate their duties. I want to make it clear, however, that broadening of confidentiality is limited to the team members only.

Finally, the act gives the court power to order that an abuser be prohibited from access to or contact with the child in need of protection.

In general, I believe our new draft legislation will provide great assistance to the courts and to all professionals in carrying out their duties in regard to the protection of abused children in this province.

These are perhaps the most dramatic initiatives my ministry has undertaken in recent months in the area of child abuse prevention. At the same time, we have been continuing the ongoing child abuse prevention activities my ministry has been involved with for almost a decade. In 1976, the ministry established a child abuse prevention program under the direction of a full-time co-ordinator to fund and promote projects and activities across the province. That program

continues under the auspices of the Ontario Centre For The Prevention Of Child Abuse.

Let me outline some of the accomplishments of the program. Through the child abuse prevention program, the ministry has given support and encouragement to the creation of local child abuse planning committees and multiprofessional diagnostic and treatment teams across the province. Today there are 41 local interagency child abuse planning and co-ordinating committees in operation in Ontario and another 38 multiprofessional child abuse treatment and case management teams.

Staff from our child abuse program have also provided assistance to hospitals and school boards in developing procedures for handling child abuse and in developing guidelines to improve co-operation between hospitals and public health support. They have also sent guidelines to and co-operated with every police department and children's aid society in the province.

At the same time, through the child abuse prevention program, the ministry has allocated grants in excess of \$3.5 million since 1976 to agencies, committees, colleges and universities to develop and test methods of preventing and dealing with child abuse and neglect. The program is also involved in a range of public education and professional training activities and projects, including distributing training materials to colleges, universities, hospitals and social service agents and establishing a central free-loan library on child abuse for the training of professionals and education of the public. Local libraries on child abuse have also been established in more than 50 Ontario communities with funds from the program.

Seminars and training workshops for professionals such as doctors, nurses, teachers, police, social workers, judges and lawyers have been funded. More than 40,000 professionals have been involved in such seminars and training workshops. Special reports and publications have been distributed to professionals to assist them to keep informed about the latest findings and most up-to-date approaches in dealing with child abuse.

Pamphlets have been distributed to the public to make people aware of the problem of child abuse and give advice on how to be better parents. Through conferences, consultation and funding, the child abuse prevention program is helping and will continue to help foster co-operation among local agencies, professionals

and the general public in the fight against child abuse.

Following the report of the Garber task force on child abuse in 1978, the ministry has been involved in the development and provision of training courses for children's aid societies. This includes children's protection officers, supervisors, foster care trainers and CAS directors.

More than 7,000 child welfare professionals have benefited from these courses which will continue to be provided through the Ontario centres. These centres are major fronts on which the ministry is waging its war against child abuse. Quite bluntly, the goal is to eliminate child abuse in Ontario. To achieve this goal will take the combined efforts of all the concerned men and women in our society and the support of every decent person in Ontario.

As the members know, Ontario has long been a world leader in programs to enhance the wellbeing of children. Notwithstanding many of the complex problems that face us, the challenges of a changing and very complex time, I believe we can win the war against that most horrifying of crimes, the abuse of our children.

The question of child abuse is obviously a difficult one for any committee to deal with. I believe the committee dealt with it as well as any body could have. I do appreciate many of its suggestions, notwithstanding the fact that some of the things we were doing overtook the committee. It is incumbent on us to work together; the very quality of life in the future of our society is dependent upon what we do for the most defenceless and the most vulnerable, the children.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate on the second report on family violence from the standing committee on social development and to praise the members of the committee from all parties for the diligence with which they undertook their assignment.

I also want to single out the chairman of the committee, now our former chairman, for being, in my brief experience on the committee, an evenhanded, fair and very helpful chairman in moving the committee ahead to both these reports, which I think have been useful in focusing attention on the issues and perhaps prodding the government just slightly.

I want to say at the outset that if I agree with one thing the minister said in his comments during the last few minutes, it is that there is no opposition from any member or any side of this House to putting an end to this terrible crime against the most defenceless in our society. I

think the work of the standing committee as it looked into child abuse has set some very important goals for us to reach.

5:50 p.m.

I sat and listened to the minister talk about training courses and conferences, as if somehow that would end the problem. But I want to talk about another part of the attack on child abuse, and that is the overall funding of those organizations, which would allow us to prevent the problem before it occurs or to deal with the problem when it does, and what has happened with that funding.

It seems to me that the policy of the government of this province is fundamentally shortsighted. By the budgetary cutbacks in the social service field and to the social agencies, it has unfortunately forced them to suspend, ironically, the very preventive programs the minister spoke about. I cannot imagine anything quite as shortsighted as that.

In my view the government must realize, aside from the desirability of preventing the abuse of children before the violence occurs out of sheer principle and respect for human dignity—and I hope this would be all we would need—it is simply more cost-effective. Preventive programs for child abuse, as in general health matters, are ultimately far less costly for the taxpayers of Ontario than the expensive hospitalization, trauma counselling and treatment centres that are necessary for victims.

I must confess before I go on that I am very uncomfortable in arguing for needed social services on the basis of cost-effectiveness alone. I would rather base my arguments just on compassionate principles about helping the powerless in our society, particularly the children. But I have to keep in mind, I suppose, the obsession this government has about money and its reluctance to spend it on desirable services. Perhaps if I can persuade the government that preventive programs are ultimately cheaper, it will properly fund the social agencies.

Let me look very briefly at the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto to highlight the government's underfunding and shortsightedness. This agency is receiving \$1 million less than it needs to function properly—and this is the important thing in the report, and the minister knows it; the report has helped highlight this—despite a 20 per cent increase in the reported cases of child sexual abuse handled by that agency. This is a problem, as it were, coming to the public attention not just in Metro, as the minister knows, but in a number of other

municipalities where other CASs are also reporting that the number of child abuse cases coming to their attention is up in a very dramatic way. I think the work of the committee is partly responsible for this, and possibly the public attention that the ministry has given, which the minister himself spoke about in the last few minutes.

The social worker simply cannot handle effectively such a case load increase in the face of the staff cutbacks that the Metro CAS has been forced to implement. To quote its outgoing executive director, Mr. Doug Barr: "The society has come to the end of its tether in terms of slowly reducing programs. We have been doing a slow bleed, but now we face major surgery." I for one would want, for example, excellent preventive programs such as the high-risk infant project continued, but projects such as these need adequate government support.

Shortsightedness and lack of compassion are affecting the Metro CAS in other negative ways. With the province closing down almost 100 beds for mentally retarded and emotionally disabled children since 1980, Metro CAS has been forced to assume those cases of people who have nowhere else to go. It seems to me the government must realize that these actions create a domino effect. Impossible case loads and staff cutbacks will lead to the moving of child victims of abuse to foster homes and treatment centres costing between \$100 and \$150 a day because CAS will not have the time it needs for prevention programs.

The government tries to justify its cutbacks to the Metro CAS by saying the money will be diverted to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto and to the Jewish Family and Child Service of Metropolitan Toronto, both of which, and I will admit, need money. Quite frankly, all the CASs should be appropriately funded by a government that is seriously committed to helping child victims.

As I said earlier, crucial child abuse prevention programs are the first to go as social agencies face tight budgets. The government will respond by saying, as the minister did, that it has set up the Ontario Centre For The Prevention Of Child Abuse for professionals to get together.

That is well and good, but where is the commitment to fund the preventive programs these professionals will recommend in the months to come? The onus, it seems to me, is on the government to find a responsive funding mechanism to meet the need. If such a mechanism were in place, the Children's Aid Society of

Ottawa-Carleton, for another example, would not have had to reduce by 20 per cent the level of preventive services it is providing this year.

Not only are preventive services threatened by the underfunding, but so are programs that service children who have already been sexually abused. For example, in the face of cutbacks by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ottawa-Carleton CAS has had to terminate its \$65,000 play therapy program to balance its budget. With this action, the government is just saying, in a sense, "too bad" to those child victims who have benefited from this program.

This problem of funding for the CAS goes back a number of years, specifically to the last two years when the government has frozen CAS budgets at five per cent increases for both 1983 and 1984. The consequence has been that all over the province CASs are reporting additional deficit finances.

I want to raise one example in the last minute available to me because I think it highlights the kind of problem, and that is the case of the Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region. The society experienced an increase in the number of families it helped, and a number of these were child abuse cases, of 48 per cent in 1983. The expected expansion in 1984 is another 14 per cent. In 1982 the society had been underfunded by \$300,000. Last year received only a five per cent increase, despite the Child Welfare Review Committee report recommending a 16 to 17 per cent increase. The administration of this agency expects a deficit of somewhere in the range of \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Other societies in the north have deficits as well. Thunder Bay had a deficit of almost \$500,000 in 1983 and Sudbury had a deficit of \$140,000.

In closing, may I simply suggest that if we are going to treat this problem with the seriousness we should be treating it with—and I do not think there is any single member of this Legislature who does not believe we ought to be getting on with the job not only of treating those who have been abused, but also of prevention—it seems to me the social services maintenance tax, which provides several hundreds of millions of dollars, is a perfect place to find the money. If we are going to call it social services maintenance, let us direct some of the money into treating the cases and preventing cases of child abuse which are far too common in our society.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I did not have the privilege of sitting on the committee that discussed child abuse, but I am looking at its

report. They have produced some very valuable recommendations; there are 44 in all. They will make a great step towards dealing with this very serious problem if they are implemented. That is the crux of the question.

It is no good giving picayune little grants to local councils to study the problem and to work with various interdisciplinary and interagency groups if money is not provided for the implementation of their recommendations. In particular, the recommendations which need very definite funding are the ones for preventive services of all kinds and the ones for providing adequate funding for children's aid societies to carry out the functions they are expected to carry out in the community. Treating children and families with compassion in order to meet their objective of keeping families together is the main one, and also ensuring that the welfare of the children is maintained.

Funding is needed for the development of child welfare services for native peoples to allow those on reserves to provide their own services and to provide some form of native services for people off the reserve. The situation where children are placed in non-native foster homes is something that has to be stopped. The development of native autonomy for the provision of services is a very important part of this report.

Another very important part is to increase the awareness of teachers and, in particular, day care workers of a child abuse situation. They meet the children at their very earliest years and the children may be very confused with the sorts of things that may be happening or with the messages they are getting.

My colleagues, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), recommend that the Day Nurseries Act should be part of any child welfare act as far as dealing with child abuse is concerned. That is the way to go. It is a very important recommendation. I may say it was a dissenting recommendation in the earlier report on the new Children's Act.

Finally, we need funding for public education to increase the awareness of professionals, people in all kinds of agencies and the general public as to the need to spend money on this problem. I am afraid it may be like the wife-battering report. We will get a lot of fine recommendations and a lot of demands from the community about how the situation can be improved, but we will not get the money to put those recommendations into effect. Therefore, I

hope the budget the minister brings down will contain definite funding.

I might also say the state of the economy is part of the increase in numbers of both children in poverty and children who are being abused. There is some evidence that there is a connection between the state of the economy and the degree of child abuse. Certainly, the fact that 363,000 children in Ontario under the age of 15 are living in poverty and that 40 per cent of the people on social assistance in this province are children indicates that the state of the economy has a great deal to do with that other kind of child abuse, the

fact that they are living in poverty. I hope the ministry will look at that as well.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment of the House, I would like to table the answers to questions 1, 275, 276, 286, 287, 289, 290, 311 to 314, and 317, and the interim answers to questions 277, 308 and 309 [see Hansard for Friday, May 4].

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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 Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
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 Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
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 Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
 Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
 Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
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 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
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 Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)
 Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)
 Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
 Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
 Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Women's Issues and Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
 Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PARADE

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I will be very brief. I invite all the members of the assembly to visit us at Niagara, starting Saturday with the Blossom Festival parade. In all of Canada that is where the first buds show, and it starts the whole wonderful summer season.

I am sure the Premier (Mr. Davis) would be interested to know that a fellow named Mulroney is going to be the parade marshal. I am not sure whether that is good or bad, but if it takes that kind of inducement to get the government members down to Niagara, I am sure they will appreciate the hospitality when they come.

Mr. Speaker: I really do not think that was a point of privilege, but it was rather interesting.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SUNCOR HOLDINGS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier regarding Ontario's energy policy, and indeed, one of the central jewels in the Ontario energy crown, Suncor.

The Premier will recall that yesterday his colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) made a very definitive statement in the House. He said: "I do not know where the member is getting any suggestion or hint that the government is increasing its investment. He knows what we bought in Suncor. We are not buying any more." Is he in fact giving official government policy that the government will not be increasing its stake in Suncor?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I thought the Treasurer made that fairly clear yesterday; but if the Leader of the Opposition does not recall what the Treasurer said yesterday, as I understand the agreement, there is an option available to the province, I think, up until October 1984, at which time my recollection is again that we can exercise an option for either 25 or 26 per cent—I forget the exact figure; somewhere in that neighbourhood.

I can say to the Leader of the Opposition that we are not at this stage contemplating the exercise of that option. But I think we are talking about October.

Mr. Peterson: I am sure the Premier will be aware of what he said on October 13, 1981. He will be aware of what the then Treasurer, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), said on October 15, 1981. He will be aware, I am sure, what Malcolm Rowan, the chairman of the Ontario Energy Corp., said on October 15, 1981: "Under the terms of the agreement, Ontario will buy another 13 per cent if Suncor fails to become 51 per cent Canadian by the end of 1984."

How does he now reconcile those two different positions?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not sure exactly what Mr. Rowan may or may not have said and what the context was.

Mr. J. A. Reed: You know what you said.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, I did not say we were going to buy 13 per cent more at all.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier very clearly has changed the government position on this matter. Very different things have been said by various different important players in his government on this subject.

Will the Premier now table all polls relating to Suncor that have brought the government to change its position on this matter?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say with due respect, and that is a very good term to use when the Leader of the Opposition talks about changes of position, because if there is anybody who has become a master of that, if nothing else, it is the Leader of the Opposition. I say this very kindly, very constructively and, I hope, educationally and to be of benefit.

I do not recall—and I could be wrong—saying we were going to exercise that option to the extent of 13 per cent. I do recall the discussion at the time and part of the discussion—

Mr. J. A. Reed: You said you would bring it to 51 per cent if there was not a Canadian buyer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I did not. I do not recall saying it; and if the honourable member can show where I said it in such a

definitive context, then that is not what I intended.

I do recall saying, and I think this will show in the record, that the partial reason for the option was to provide an opportunity, as we sensed it at that time, for another Canadian participant to the extent of the 25 or 26 per cent—whatever it was. But I do not recall indicating that the government was going to exercise an option on the balance of those shares, and I am just saying to the Leader of the Opposition that we are not contemplating so doing.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health, and it pertains to the health care service made available to rural municipalities.

Some time ago we were in the great riding of Haldimand-Norfolk and we were addressed at that time by members of the health services industry in that riding. Their suggestion was that certain community facilities should be made available from which health services could be distributed to those citizens who are unable to travel long distances.

Can the Minister of Health give us an undertaking here that he is willing to provide those sorts of facilities for the senior citizens of the rural areas of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me from the question just specifically what type of service delivery the honourable member is referring to.

Obviously, certain forms of service delivery are available at the present time, both through such agencies as the local public health units and, in some communities where the local citizens wish to take such initiatives, through community health centres. Those are established programs, part of the policy of this government with respect to health care delivery at the present time.

I am not sure those are what he is referring to; if there is any further clarification in terms of his intent, I would like to hear it.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Elston: One of the problems with the provision of health services in rural municipalities in Ontario is the fact that there is a great distance to travel to certain sorts of facilities in which are located the doctors and nurses who do take care of our people.

The suggestion was made that it be a policy, particularly in areas where the government has eliminated the designation of municipalities—in certain regional municipalities, for instance—that

the government go out of its way to set up these regional or area health care facilities so the people can be attended to by physicians who would come especially to those centres for health care. The patients would then not have to either drive or find a mode of transportation which generally is not available, that is bus or train, to go to the larger centres for provision of those services.

Can the minister provide us with an undertaking that he will look into the question of the added cost and distance travelled by the people in rural areas to receive that sort of health care service and that he will make an effort to have his friend the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) make available more dollars for the provision of those sorts of facilities?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would be glad to provide the member with information with respect to community health centres or health service organizations, which it seems to me he is hinting at. When he referred to facilities, I was not sure whether he was talking about mobile hospitals that would go to the people, as opposed to the people going to the hospitals. I was not sure what he was getting at, but if he is talking about physicians' services and perhaps the more convenient location of them in some communities, then that is something the citizens of that community can initiate through the establishment of a community health centre.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister will realize the guidelines set out for community health centres make it almost impossible to get approval for them. As I understand it, we do not have legislation in Ontario yet that fully establishes community health centres as part of the health care system. In many ways, they are still regarded as an experimental way of delivering health care.

When is the minister going to bring in legislation that establishes community health centres as a very important aspect of the delivery of health care in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how long the honourable member has been the critic for the Ministry of Health, but I think his role as critic predates my role as minister. He should remember that my predecessor, who is now the Treasurer, announced prior to my incumbency in the ministry that the health service organizations and the community health centres were now part of the policy of this government as part of the health care delivery system and that it was no longer on an experimental or pilot project basis. In fact, across

Ontario I believe we now have at least 18 such organizations in operation.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, we do have health councils in such places as Haldimand-Norfolk. Does the minister follow their recommendations closely in providing that support service to the communities?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the district health councils do provide an important input of advice to me as Minister of Health and, of course, I always take the advice seriously. That does not mean I would always follow it without modification. If that were the case, it would not be advice, would it?

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and has to do with the speech about education he gave last night. The Premier made a rather extraordinary statement—extraordinary from our point of view but not from his, because it is so self-serving. He said, "Educational funding has been too dominant a topic in recent years."

Given the fact that Ontario has fallen behind other provinces in the percentage of the gross provincial product it allocates to vocational education, elementary education and post-secondary education, and given the fact that its funding of secondary education has now fallen behind the 50 per cent mark in its relations with the local authorities, how can the Premier possibly set aside the question of adequacy of funding for education in Ontario when it is the underfunding problem and the failure to invest in our young people that are so clearly causing the inequality he talked about last night with respect to the educational system in this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would repeat his question. I was not able to hear it.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker; I did hear it.

I know the member was very critical of my going to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He was rather sarcastic and facetious about it some weeks ago when he learned I had been invited to participate in the R. B. Jackson lecture. He had a few rather snide observations to make here in the House, as I recall. Does the member recall that? I do.

I do not quarrel with him. If he had been there last evening, like his colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), he would have sensed the reason I was invited was that Dr.

Jackson and the then Minister of Education shared a number of experiences together in the educational field. I was invited there in our bicentennial year to reflect to a certain extent on some of Dr. Jackson's activities and some of the directions of education as I sensed them as an individual.

The member was trying to plant the seed that I would be using this as a political vehicle. I know exactly what he said, and he was trying to create the impression that I had been invited there to defend, explain or try to persuade people with respect to government policy.

I say with the greatest of respect that if the member had any sense at all of the audience that was there last night, he would know they were neither upset nor offended that I did not deal in a partisan or governmental sense with the aspect of funding of education. If he reads my speech carefully, he will find I acknowledged that it was an important issue. I did say that in my view, and I happen to believe this, we have spent a great deal of time and discussion on the monetary aspects of education, but that I happen to be concerned about some others.

I know some of my other concerns would not impress the member much. He probably is not concerned about access, quality or equality. He probably has a lesser concern about a value system within the educational system. I know he would never have talked about that if he had been asked to deliver the lecture.

I can only say to the member that I was there as a guest, and I still reserve to myself the right to say the things I want to say. I was there. I was available for questions. There were people there from the Ontario Teachers' Federation, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the trustees, the university community and the community colleges. They had every opportunity to engage the Premier of this province in a discussion on financing if they had wished to do so.

The member's colleague the member for Hamilton West will probably tell him the only question—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sorry. Perhaps the member will ask me a supplementary.

Mr. Rae: I am surprised at the Premier not having a sense of humour as to what I was saying a couple of weeks ago about the invitation to speak to OISE. All I said was that I thought OISE showed a great deal of courage and independence in inviting the Premier to give the kind of address he gave the other day with respect to education.

I would like to put to the Premier the statement he made. He says members do not share his concerns about equality, or that I do not. I think the Premier knows just how absurd that kind of comment is. What we do not share is the Premier's complacency with respect to funding and the record of his government on educational investment and educational creativity for our young people in this province. That is what we do not share with the Premier.

If the Premier is really concerned about equality for women, which he talked about in his speech, how does he respond to the brief of the Women Teachers' Association of Sault Ste. Marie on affirmative action? They said that as educators, women teachers are very conscious that they exert some influence on the attitudes about women which both girls and boys acquire. "Encouraging girls to become more assertive and more career-oriented is truly a waste of time if, in their formative years, they observe that women do not hold positions of leadership and authority."

How does the Premier feel about the fact that during his tenure as Premier of this province the number of women holding positions of authority in our educational system has gone down relative to the number of men?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is a bit of history to this. I would refer the member, when he is talking about this issue generally, to statements emanating from Manitoba on the whole question of women's issues. The head of the public service union in Manitoba, even with a New Democratic Party government there, acknowledges that we are doing more in Ontario, far more than the leader of the third party, who is referred to in the article, is prepared to acknowledge. I pass that on for the member's own reading. He should broaden his horizons.

I was trying to conclude my observations on the initial question about funding. I made it quite clear on page 9 in my copy—it may be a different page in the member's copy—that I am not in any way diminishing the importance of funding in education. I think I am right in my assessment of last evening that, with the exception of the last question, which related to the question of province-wide bargaining raised by a former trustee from Halton county, the question of funding per se was not raised.

There was an interest in the Bovey commission and there was an interest in some aspects of the college program. I wish the member had been there to sense what the evening was all about. I

know it disappoints him that there was no great controversy. There was no confrontation, which I know is not his style, and that was disappointing. I would say to the leader of the New Democratic Party he should go on another bicycle ride. He performs much better after he gets a bit of physical exertion.

Mr. Samis: We are on another bicycle ride now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know I still owe the member \$20.19. I have not forgotten that.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I am sorry, it is \$19.20.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the original question from the leader of the third party, is the Premier not concerned with the trend that has taken place since 1975, when his government on an average across the province provided more than 61 per cent of the cost of education, whereas at the present time it provides less than 49 per cent?

Is he not concerned that local boards of education are now required to do one of two things? They must either cut back on essential services or increase the local levy of municipal property tax, which does not take into account a person's ability to pay. What is he prepared to do to assist local municipalities to deliver quality education to students in this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to become too philosophical on this occasion. It is very difficult in question period to have the opportunity to exchange reasonably held points of view. I have always been somewhat concerned, and I understand the need for funding in education. I know that as well as any person here in the House, even those members who used to be in the profession. I may even have signed their certificates, which was a great mistake on my part; it is quite obvious we did not raise the standards soon enough—I am only teasing.

I am also a little concerned that we always tend to equate quality with increased expenditure. I am not going to get into a debate on the percentage share, but I do look at the total dollars invested by this province and by this government in education generally. Although the member might go through his per capita expenditures in terms of what some other provinces are doing, when he includes this post-secondary system, in fact we moved ahead of most of our sister provinces in capital provision some years in advance of them. That is not put into the calculation or into the mix.

With great respect, I also suggest he look at the allocation or the degree of per capita expenditure in just about every state of the union. I think he will find Ontario is higher than almost any state, including the state of California. They have a constitutional limitation there as it relates to their level of expenditures, as they do in Michigan. We do not have that here, and we are blessed because of it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, they are interrupting me. I am trying to be as helpful as I can.

Mr. Martel: That will be a first.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member should stick to hockey. He is doing quite well. I am somewhat sympathetic. I have decided he knows more about hockey than he does about teaching.

Mr. Martel: The Premier is stickhandling pretty well now.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, there was a great deal in the Premier's speech about two problems. Throughout the speech there was a mention of pluralism, about the fact that Ontario was creating a culture of minorities. The second thing he mentioned in his speech was the need to provide for the educational needs of the future, in particular with respect to basic skills.

In this regard, can the Premier tell us whether the government is planning any changes in its approaches to minorities? In particular, I am sure he is aware there are many minority groups that do not have access to a heritage language program or to special programs because their boards have refused to introduce those programs. I think there are many boards throughout the province where this is the case. Is the government planning any changes in order to address that particular inequality and injustice?

Secondly, how does the Premier feel about the fact that in this very initial stage of the response to the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions program, the one major result we can see is an alarming decline in the number of students who plan to be taking technical courses.

How does the Premier plan to address those two particular problems at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can recall discussing the latter question in this House well before the member's time; in fact, it was probably during the period when he spent more

time in the gallery than he did at lectures at the University of Toronto.

I can recall discussing this same issue with his predecessor three times removed. On the question of technical and vocational education, I think this is partly an attitudinal matter. I referred to this last evening. The member for Hamilton West will recall, as will the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), we got into this discussion in relation to the college program and how the former leader of the opposition, in his role as both leader and education critic, along with the Toronto Globe and Mail, was urging us to institute the transfer system which emanated in California, with immediate access after the end of the second year to the university community.

This government and the then minister held fast and went in the direction of a technically, vocationally and practically oriented community college program that I think has worked out extremely well.

I hope the member will please understand we have this commitment. We have seen it in the secondary schools. I cannot answer for him why we have not had a higher percentage of people involved in that aspect of education, but I ask him not to suggest we have not provided the opportunity or that we are not committed to it.

With respect to the heritage language program, I tried to point out in my learned dissertation last evening—which was far from learned, but I happen to believe in the things I said—how I sensed this province has changed and how the educational system must, of necessity, reflect it. I guess I did not in the prepared text, but I certainly hope I made it clear that this province has done very well in meeting that change. I did take the occasion to observe that I happen to believe and still believe, even some several hours after saying it, we have one of the finest educational systems anywhere in North America.

I did not find too many people there last night who disagreed with that point of view. Certainly, the member for Hamilton West did not immediately jump up and say: "Mr. Premier, I disagree with you. It is better in California, Iowa, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, the Maritimes or western Canada." I did not hear him say that.

Mr. Rae: It is obvious the 20 per cent increase in our popularity in the Gallup poll has got the Premier completely rattled. I cannot find any other explanation for the quality of his answer.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I do not understand it. I cannot find any other explanation for this complete aberration in the Premier's behaviour.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my second question to the Minister of the Environment, who spoke to the Air Pollution Control Association yesterday. He said Ontario Hydro may have to go to scrubbers. If he is going around making that kind of suggestion today, I would like to ask him where the government of Ontario was a year ago and two years ago when Ontario Hydro cancelled its plans and its intentions to install scrubbers.

Where was the government? What was it doing? It takes five years to install the scrubbers. Why has it taken so long for the government to change its mind on this vital question?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, when I made that comment yesterday, I would emphasize again today the operative word was "may". At no time have I indicated, nor has my colleague the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) indicated, that scrubbers might not at some point in the future be necessary. I want the member to listen closely so he will be sure to understand. The reality of the situation at this particular—

Mr. Nixon: One reversal on an issue is enough.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am trying desperately to answer the question in a serious fashion.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It is a very serious question, and I want to address it in that light. The reality is that there are a number of options available to Ontario Hydro with respect to the control of the sulphur dioxide problem. One of them could be—I did not say would be—a reduction in the export of power. It may be necessary for an increase in the importation of power. It may be necessary for them to shift to a lower-sulphur coal.

In the context of that statement, I said it "may be necessary." If there is more dependence on the part of Ontario Hydro on moving towards coal-fired plants, it may at some point in the future require the scrubber technology. I think that is abundantly clear.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if the minister could repeat that answer word for word.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I do not know. The future can hold strange things. Stranger things have happened.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I guess the answer is scrubbers if necessary, but not necessarily scrubbers.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: That is right.

Mr. Rae: That is it. Mackenzie King in drag is now the position of the Tory party with respect to scrubbers in the environment.

I would like to ask the minister if he can explain why the supposed 50 per cent reduction Hydro is being asked to carry out over the next while is in fact—and we were told that today in the briefing we received from Hydro itself—a 50 per cent reduction from a level that was never reached. It is not really 50 per cent. The 50 per cent figure in terms of the actual acid gas emissions is a bogus target.

How does the minister explain and justify that statistic? He has created an illusory situation, which I can assure him American congressmen and senators are well aware of in their discussions and their responses to the credibility of Ontario about acid rain. How does he feel about the fact that this year's emissions for Hydro will be at an all-time high? What does that do for our credibility when we ask the United States to reduce its emissions? Fifty per cent of the acid gas problem in Ontario is a home-grown problem. What is the minister going to do about that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member has left himself very vulnerable.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: He certainly has. First, let me point out that the 50 per cent figure is incorrect. The actual figure is a 43 per cent reduction required from the allowable maximums. I admit that is an allowable maximum, but we cannot simply turn a dial or push a button on and off to hit the exact amount of emissions allowable, as the leader of the third party might suggest in the preamble to his question.

The reality is that we develop a margin of operation in which Ontario Hydro is allowed to operate. In the reductions that are required, the first point of actual reduction is 1986. I have been assured by Ontario Hydro it will meet that emissions target then, and the 43 per cent will be operative by 1990. I have been further assured it will meet the sulphur dioxide maximum emissions target then. I see nothing inappropriate or difficult to understand about that position.

During a relatively recent trip to Washington when I spoke to congressmen, senators, the Environmental Protection Agency, the coal lobby and environmental groups, not once was the question the member has just raised with me

brought up by our American friends. Even if the member does not understand, they understand a company has to have reasonable parameters for operation, rather than putting some artificial and perhaps impossible target figure there for it to attempt to achieve.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: If I might, Mr. Speaker, I will speak quickly. Our American friends understand the situation. I suggest—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That was a very full answer.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, am I understanding the minister properly as having now enunciated a new policy on scrubbers, i.e., scrubbers if necessary, but not necessarily scrubbers? Is that his new policy? Is he equivocating on the past renunciation of those scrubbers? Is he going back to the original position that was put forward by a variety of people, including the chairman of Hydro and in the throne speech which definitely promised scrubbers for at least two of the generating stations? Is he aware of that?

Is he not aware that his broken promise has been a matter of public discussion in the Congressional Record in the United States? His broken promise is held up as an excuse for inaction by the coal lobby in the United States. I am not surprised he got along with them very well. Would he not now make a strong and definitive statement that he is going to unbreak that broken promise and at least going to make a commitment to move forward?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition plays rather fast and loose with words.

Mr. Speaker: Now to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Perhaps I should rephrase that. He plays rather slow and loose with words.

The reality is that the Congressional Record he refers to does not indicate any broken promises on the part of this government or this ministry. Without any equivocation whatever, I can say when we make a promise over here we keep the promise.

Now I want to get to the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I think you did. Thank you.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, this Yosemite Sam routine would be amusing—and it is amusing—were it not for the fact that Ontario Hydro is the second largest single source of acid gas emissions in Ontario. We share a responsibility in this province for our own acid gas and acid rain problems.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: We do have a credibility problem in the United States. If the minister is not aware of it, everybody else is. I have been to Washington and the leader of the Liberal Party has been to Washington. We are all aware of it.

Despite the fact that we have had an alleged control program for several years now, we have not seen any actual reductions in emissions. How does that fact possibly improve our own record, our own credibility, in fighting the problem of acid rain?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The leader of the third party apparently does not follow the sequencing of Ontario Hydro's operation as closely as he indicates from time to time. Long before this small increase he is talking about occurred, my predecessor in this ministry indicated there would be a short-time upturn in the emissions that would occur this year. However, he added that still would not remove the obligation from Ontario Hydro to meet the target by 1986 and the further total 43 per cent reduction by 1990.

The short-term increase in sulphur dioxide emissions was predicted, was talked about and was spoken about in a very open fashion as long as two years ago. This should not come as a surprise to him.

Mr. Speaker: The Solicitor General has a brief answer to a previously asked question.

PURCHASE OF OPP BOATS

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I did not know whether your reference to brief was an advisement or whether a full answer was wanted, so I will try to give the full answer.

Yesterday the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) asked about the purchase of two boats.

Mr. Stokes: What is their address?

Mr. Rae: Who owns Grew?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I know my colleagues in the Legislature found great amusement in this yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Would the minister just give us the answer, please.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I shall, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the opposition will allow me to get around to it.

Yesterday the member for Lanark asked about the purchase of two boats by the Ontario Provincial Police and about the tendering of that purchase. I would like to apprise him and the other members of the Legislature of the following facts.

2:40 p.m.

Of the four tenders submitted, the two lowest tenders were by Mason Boats Ltd. at \$45,320 and the Grew Boat corporation in the amount of \$45,639. The difference between the two bids is \$319. I might add that as part of the normal tendering procedure, each potential supplier is required to complete a statement of Canadian content. This represents the value of everything added in Canada—the labour, materials, transportation, duty, taxes and the Canadian suppliers' profits.

The tenders received by the purchasing branch of the ministry were sent to the transport branch of the OPP for evaluation. After examining the tenders, the OPP transport branch recommended the purchase of the Grew boats because the Grew tender better met the specifications. This included a two-year warranty by Grew as opposed to a one-year warranty offered by Mason for commercial boats, later confirmed in writing in a letter from Mason Boats.

When the purchasing branch and the OPP transport branch consider tenders, they look at such areas as specifications, time of delivery, quality of workmanship, technical evaluations, length of warranty and previous experience with the product. The Grew boats are designed and built in Canada, as are the Mason boats. I am informed that engines for both companies would be imported.

The saving in travelling cost to the OPP amounts to only about \$800 and was an insignificant consideration in evaluating the tenders. Such information was developed in reply to the purchasing department's questions when the lowest tender was not recommended by the OPP.

In fact, the OPP does have three boats from the Mason company in its fleet. As the honourable member mentioned yesterday, the last one purchased by the OPP developed stress fractures in the hull and had to be replaced by the manufacturer.

I want to assure all honourable members that the OPP and other branches of the ministry will continue to do business with firms in all parts of the province and get the best possible value for the taxpayers' dollar.

Finally, I would like to tell the member for Lanark that the first I knew of the awarding of the tender was when the member drew it to my attention yesterday. The purchase order was made on April 17. Although the member asked if I would review it and change the situation, since

the purchase order has already gone through I have no way of cancelling that order now.

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General mentioned that the company from Lanark, Mason Boats, only gives a one-year warranty on its boats. I have a copy of the submission by Mason showing that the warranty was a five-year limited guarantee. When the purchasing agent got in touch with Mr. Mason and asked him to verify that, it was his understanding one year was all that was necessary. That is why he did that.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wiseman: Just to clarify: As a businessman I do not know how any company can do better than it did with its guarantee. When the boat in question developed some hairline cracks, Mason Boats gave them a completely new boat. They did not repair it, but gave them a new one. What I mentioned yesterday that disturbed me—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wiseman: —was the fact the OPP said it was too far to travel to eastern Ontario to inspect the boats and to pick them up, those sorts of things, plus that the purchasing agent told me that parts of the boat were from the United States. Does the minister not believe in the low tender being accepted? When I was in my previous ministry, I felt that all things being equal, that would be the case.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: With the member's knowledge of his previous ministry, I am sure he knows most of the tenders, if not all of them, do not say the lowest tender would always be the one that was accepted. One looks at many things. As I mentioned to the member, which he does not seem to want to accept as an answer, warranty is one of them.

I explained to the member that the tender submitted by Mason Boats included a brochure that said, "Note: five-year limited warranty." When the purchasing department went back to that manufacturer and asked, "What type of warranty do you have?" the reply was, "One year for commercial boats." This happens to be in use as a commercial boat and had a one-year warranty.

Having had previous experience with that company, the decision was made that we might have to have a longer warranty. We got that from the other boat company. It met all the other specifications. In fact, it exceeded the specifications.

The difference of \$319 is a very small one. I explained to the member that the costs later on

were also worked up as part of the specifications when deciding whether to accept a tender. When we put those all together, the OPP people, who looked at quality control, date of delivery, Canadian content, previous experience and specifications, decided from their past experience and what they had before them that one boat was a better product than the other for their specifications.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, every time we attempt to do this in the standing committee on public accounts we get thwarted by the majority. Would the minister be prepared to encourage his colleagues on the public accounts committee to support a motion to have this matter considered in depth by the committee to determine who is telling the truth?

Mr. Speaker: I think the honourable member knows he is on very thin ice. I am going to ask him to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Bradley: Let me rephrase that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Just withdraw the remark.

Mr. Bradley: Let me withdraw the remark and rephrase it to "what the truth really is."

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any quality we have to concern ourselves about as to the truth. The fact of the matter is a boat was purchased. The lowest tender was not accepted. There is a difference of \$319.

If members want to discuss it before the public accounts committee, they can do so. The honourable member got his information freely by phoning the purchasing department. Indeed, one can phone either supplier of the boats. They are supplying information freely. There has been no attempt whatever to disguise or hide information. It has been freely accessible to all members who have asked about it.

A decision was made on the specifications to purchase one boat versus another. With a difference of \$319 on a \$45,000 item, I submit it is a simple decision. One is not really deciding on dollar value with that insignificant amount.

Interjections.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I hear the honourable members commenting about Canadian content. They used the usual purchasing methods. The assessment of Canadian content versus American content was done. Both boats have American content. That decision was weighed and assessed.

ESPANOLA CARE FACILITY

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt. I was enjoying this game of Tory target practice.

I have a question for the Minister of Health. It concerns a situation in northern Ontario that demonstrates a lack of commitment on the part of the ministry, if not the government. I say this in deference to the minister of wind—I mean the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt)—who talked about keeping the promise a while ago.

I am referring, of course, to the events surrounding the infamous senior citizens' complex in Espanola. Since 1974, the need for a seniors' complex has been recognized by the government. In June 1980, the Ontario Legislature endorsed the establishment of such a complex.

2:50 p.m.

During the March 1981 election campaign, the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) announced he expected ground to be broken for the complex that spring. Everyone assumed it would be forthcoming shortly after the election, but it was not. It has still not been started.

I want to know what action the ministry is prepared to take to remedy this situation. In brief, is he going to build it, and when?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure the member has directed his question to the correct minister. If he is referring to a nursing home, then perhaps he ought to describe it as such. Otherwise, my ministry has nothing to do with senior citizens' complexes.

Mr. Van Horne: It has been bounced around from ministry to ministry. The minister's colleague is not here, but the minister is involved to the extent that I understand architectural plans have gone to his ministry and they have not been dealt with.

Beyond that, related to his ministry, is the need for chronic care beds for people in that area. It is our understanding that the complex would be twinned with a hospital that has only 12 chronic care beds. The need for beds in that particular area, we are told, is roughly 70—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Van Horne: —which means that some of the people from the Espanola area would have to travel to Sudbury hospitals for such care.

Is the minister going to properly assess the needs of the people in the Espanola area and meet their needs by providing the adequate number of chronic care beds?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course, the answer to the latter part of the question clearly is yes, although I am not yet sure whether the honourable member is referring to a chronic care wing attached to a hospital, a senior citizens' complex, which might include a home for the aged or nursing home facilities. If he is going to ask these questions, I wish he would be a little more precise so I could answer them precisely.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, if I can clarify this matter for the two honourable members, what has been referred to is a health and residential care facility attached to a hospital, for which the Ministry of Northern Affairs is the co-ordinating ministry and the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are both involved.

If the minister is unable to answer this, would he redirect the question to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and have that minister explain why he has not yet made the announcement as to which communities, and whether when those communities do get the announcement it will include Espanola, will receive funding this year under the program to assist seniors to stay in their own communities without having to be in active care beds in acute care hospitals at twice the cost that would normally be involved if they had the proper facilities in their own communities?

We need them in Espanola, in Wawa and in many other communities in northern Ontario. When are we going to get the announcement?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member who first asked the question had identified what it was he was referring to, I would have been aware of what it was. I was not sure. When he made reference to a senior citizens' complex, it sounded like considerably more than my ministry would normally be responsible for.

The fact of the matter is the program, of which this is part, is still a program of this government. As the member is aware, we have just entered a new fiscal year and the matter of determining which projects are to proceed in this fiscal year is a matter yet to be determined between the Minister of Northern Affairs, myself and the other parties involved. We will be announcing those as soon as we have the opportunity to assess them.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education.

The minister continues to tell us there is good access for secondary school students to the college system, but what does she say to general level students in Hamilton like Phil Brucculeri, age 18, of Hill Park Secondary School, who was assured when he entered grade 9 of the general level program that he would be able to get access to a college? He tried with 350 others to get into the radio broadcasting course at Mohawk College and was among those rejected.

What does she say to the 1,270 students at that same college who were refused access to the law and security administration program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, within that college I believe there are some 180 different programs available to the students, and I would strongly suggest that if the honourable member has not already said to that student, "Please consider an alternative program in the college," he might do that now.

Mr. Allen: While the minister continues to be fairly optimistic about the situation, it is strange the students who do the applying and know they need to apply to more than one program do not feel the same way. Does she not listen to counsellors such as Don Reed, at the same school, who says general level students have a hard time coming out ahead when they are competing on the same basis as university drop-outs, adults and grade 13 students?

Has the minister seen the recent Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation study of who goes to college? It makes it quite plain that only 28 per cent of general level grade nine students get to college, and the probability of a grade nine general level student completing any college program is one in 25. When they get to college, they find themselves competing in the same classes as students from advanced level grade 12, grade 13 and university drop-outs, because these students have not been given any advanced access or any advanced standing.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: Will the minister tell the House she will institute a major task force or group study to look into the special problems of general level students, so that when they go into the colleges they get a fair break?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The honourable member obviously looks at only one set of statistics. The statistical information regarding the admissions to colleges demonstrates very clearly that the students who are in the majority of places in the colleges right across this province are students who are not graduates of grade 13,

nor graduates of universities. Indeed, that has always been the purpose of the college system and it remains such.

For four and a half years I have been saying to the members of this Legislature that the concern which precipitated the development or the establishment of the secondary education review project study was the concern about the student studying at the general level in the secondary schools of Ontario. That is what SERP; the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines and the Renewal of Secondary Education document are about.

We are working right now with the college system to devise the appropriate secondary school programs for those students, in order to ensure the kind of statistical information developed by the OSST, which I have not been able to verify at this point, could be modified, if it is factual.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, does the minister understand that if the necessary funds are not forthcoming for community colleges to provide openings for these students who, despite what has been said, are competing in many cases with grade 13 graduates and others coming back to university, then those students from the general level are simply not going to be able to compete in the job market? The money saved by not adequately funding community colleges in Ontario at the present time will be spent on unemployment insurance and other forms of social assistance in the future.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member obviously has not looked at the statistical information, which would demonstrate clearly that the funding to the college system has exceeded the rate of inflation almost every year for the last five years. We have been doing a very good job of providing funds to the college system.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, according to a report in the Sunday Sun of April 29, the landlord of a property located at 150 St. Clair Avenue West in the city of Toronto is seeking a rent increase of 99 per cent.

That landlord is reported to be a member of the New Democratic Party, a party which the minister well knows is given to bemoaning the lot of tenants who fall into the hands of gouging landlords and often presents itself as the shining champion of tenants' rights. I find it difficult to believe he would consider an increase of 99 per cent. Would the minister restore my faith in the

third party by standing in his place and telling this House that these reports are inaccurate?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I sense there was an absence of enthusiasm for that question from one corner of the Legislature. Where was that corner? I cannot get a sense of where the noise was not coming from.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the answer, please.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I want to assure the honourable member that the Ontario rent review process, which places a cap of five per cent on the rental increase as a result of financing costs related to a sale and all of the other regulations, will apply to this entrepreneur who has applied for a rent increase, as it may apply to others. I must say I am surprised and shocked at the difference in opinion there is with respect to the question that was just asked in the House.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. It has been more than two years since the previous Minister of Health announced the assistive devices program to assist children up to the age of 18 years. At that time he said: "Speaking for the Health ministry, the program will eventually be extended to the full population of the disabled." Can the minister tell this House when disabled adults of Ontario can expect to become eligible for the assistive devices program?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I believe the program will have been in place two years this July. I think that is correct. At the time of the inception of the program, the commitment was made that it would be reviewed in the course of the first two years of operation and the decision with respect to its future would be made at that time.

I have a number of proposals under consideration at present and will shortly be making some of them to my colleagues with respect to the future of the program which would be related to its expansion. I cannot be entirely certain of the timing of that, but I expect it will be before the end of this session of the House.

Ms. Copps: I hope I understood the minister to say he will be making recommendations regarding the extension of the program to cover adults.

The minister will be aware that while originally \$13 million was set aside for the ADP for young people, only \$2 million of that was used in the first year of operation. The current, 1984

budget has already been reduced from \$10 million to \$8 million because the demand that was anticipated has not materialized.

This should be considered in the light of a situation I know of in the city of Hamilton. Three young adults in Chedoke hospital are unable to leave, even though they are ready to be discharged, simply because they cannot afford to pay the \$10,000 to \$12,000 each will need for assistive devices to become independent.

Does the minister not believe it would be more effective to extend the ADP to adults across this province, thus permitting people such as those at Chedoke hospital to get out into the community and become contributing and earning citizens again?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I assumed the honourable member could conclude from my remarks that I would be making recommendations with respect to the expansion of the program to adults. The children are already eligible, so I would not normally make recommendations to make children ineligible or something of that nature.

I believe the program has been successful. The member is right: the experience of the first two years with respect to the projected costs has been very encouraging.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister may be able to report on a similar item. Over the last number of years, this government has consistently suggested it is going to bring in an interim program that would at least cover breast prostheses for women who have had cancer. Can the minister tell us whether breast prostheses will be covered before we adjourn in June?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot. I would point out that there are much more costly devices required by some disabled adults.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health concerning access to medical treatment by injured workers. I would like to supply to the minister a statement by a constituent of mine—

Mr. Speaker: Just ask the question, please.

Mr. Philip: Having waited six months, Mr. Switzer arrived at a publicly funded hospital, namely, the Toronto General Hospital, for a consultation with Dr. Hamilton Hall. When the receptionist discovered Mr. Switzer was on workers' compensation she informed him that Dr. Hall's policy was not to treat or in any way see injured workers even though this injured

worker offered \$80 out of his own pocket for a consultation.

Does the minister feel this is the kind of public access that should be available to injured workers of this province? Is the minister willing to act, since the College of Physicians and Surgeons has not acted in similar cases that have been brought to its attention?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member's latter comment is inaccurate. I know of cases where action has been taken. No, I do not condone that sort of thing, but before I react hysterically, I would like to investigate it. If the member has information that he can communicate to me to assist in that, I will pursue it.

In that instance, one can hardly accuse the physician of being motivated by financial reasons since the Workers' Compensation Board pays at a higher rate than the Ontario health insurance plan.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Middlesex, Scarborough North and Scarborough East, I wish to table petitions which read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition; it is signed by one constituent.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value

was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition which states as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

I am happy to say that I wholeheartedly concur with the petition.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which states:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

I fully support this petition. It is signed by a number of residents in my riding of Beaches-Woodbine and by other residents of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of

the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This petition is signed by Heather Clancy, who lives at 61 Muskoka Avenue in Oshawa.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from Miss Bonnie Sutherland of the riding of Riverdale and a further one in identical terms from Miss Nora Spence, also of the riding of Riverdale:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This petition is signed by Lynda Reinholt, Elizabeth Sutton, Lise Clark and Betsy Neily, all of the riding of London North.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors and residents of the Grey-Bruce region would like to draw your attention to an injustice.

"The 1984 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in part: 'Parents have a right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their child.' Parents who claim this right by enrolling their children in alternative or independent schools in Ontario, schools which meet acceptable social and educational standards, bear a double burden. Their taxes support the public system which their children do not use.

"We simply propose that the per pupil educational grant follow the pupil to the school of the parents' choice."

I have 600 names here.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors and residents of Kitchener-Wilmot, Waterloo North and Kitchener, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right.

"The supporters of these schools also face a form of financial hardship. The parents of independent schools, while contributing millions of dollars in education taxes, have had to bear the full cost of their own schools. This is unfair.

"We seek a just public educational policy that supports all schools that provide future citizens a good education."

This petition is signed by 32 supporters of the Laurentian Hills Christian School.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition with 77 signatures:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned electors, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right. Furthermore, in a democratic and multicultural society parents should have the right to send their children to

schools of their choice without a financial penalty.

"We ask for your help in reducing the unfair burden of what in effect is double taxation. We seek a just public education policy that supports all schools deemed to be operating in the public interest."

I might add that I support this petition.

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private members' bills of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

This petition is signed by 664 people. This brings the total to somewhere around 3,000.

MOTION

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that commencing Thursday, May 3, the House may resolve itself into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 51, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to broaden the criteria used by the Workers' Compensation Board in assessing the impairment of earning capacity resulting from an injury that causes permanent disability.

The act currently states that the impairment of earning capacity shall be estimated from the nature and degree of the injury. The board is authorized under the act to compile a rating schedule of percentages of impairment of earning

capacity for specific injuries that may be used as a guide in determining the compensation payable in permanent disability cases.

The bill repeals the provision that authorizes the board to compile a rating schedule and directs the board to estimate the impairment of earning capacity in the light of all the circumstances of each individual case.

NON-UNIONIZED WORKERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 52, An Act respecting the Rights of Non-Unionized Workers.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a low-cost mechanism whereby a nonunionized worker may obtain a review by the Ontario Labour Relations Board where the worker is discharged or otherwise disciplined for cause and the contract of employment is silent on matters of discipline.

At the present time, a nonunionized worker who is dismissed or otherwise disciplined for cause may have no right of action against his employer, notwithstanding the fact that the discipline, having regard to all the circumstances, is unduly harsh.

The bill provides a two-stage process for reviewing complaints involving harsh discipline. Initially, a labour relations officer would be appointed to effect a settlement which would be reduced to writing and which would have to be complied with according to its terms.

If no settlement is reached, and where a settlement is not likely, the Ontario Labour Relations Board would inquire into the matter. The board, if satisfied that the complaint is justified, will have the power to make an order substituting such penalty as is just and reasonable in all circumstances.

This would parallel the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

3:20 p.m.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Spensieri moved, seconded by Mr. Ruprecht, first reading of Bill 53, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize municipal councils to refuse to issue permits for the demolition of buildings containing six or more dwelling units in appropriate circumstances.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 27, An Act to amend the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act.

MORAMOS HOLDING CLUB OF ESSEX ACT

Mr. Stokes moved, on behalf of Mr. Cooke, second reading of Bill Pr1, An Act to revive Moramos Holding Club of Essex.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CENTRAL BAPTIST SEMINARY AND BIBLE COLLEGE ACT

Mr. Treleaven moved, on behalf of Mr. Williams, second reading of Bill Pr4, An Act to incorporate Central Baptist Seminary and Bible College.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion:

KITCHENER-WATERLOO FOUNDATION ACT

Mr. Sweeney moved, on behalf of Mr. Breithaupt, second reading of Bill Pr11, An Act to incorporate the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ZETA PSI ELDERS ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO ACT

Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill Pr18, An Act to revive Zeta Psi Elders Association of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH ACT

Mr. Treleaven moved, on behalf of Mr. Pollock, second reading of Bill Pr42, An Act respecting the City of Peterborough.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Miss Stephenson moved second reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware the minister was not going to make a statement,

but I will take advantage of the opportunity to speak first.

As members will be aware, this actually arises out of Bill 127 and there was a good deal of controversy over Bill 127. Both the opposition parties were vehement in their opposition to that bill and the provisions, or at least most of the provisions, of that bill. The member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) will recall the rather lengthy debate that took place throughout 1982 and into 1983. We actually had a January and February session to discuss Bill 127.

There was also considerable visible opposition from the Workgroup of Metro Parents, which worked very hard to mobilize public opinion on this bill and to make people aware of the provisions of Bill 127, and certainly among the school boards in Metropolitan Toronto. The Toronto Board of Education, under the former chairman, Bob Spencer, was in the forefront of opposition to Bill 127.

3:30 p.m.

I am not aware of Mr. Spencer's position on these provisions, but I know the Toronto board has indicated its support of the changes that have been forthcoming or at least its acquiescence in the provisions of this piece of legislation.

I was trying to find people who were opposed to this bill. That is interesting. As members of the opposition it is our duty, in addition to our own views, to find out if there is opposition in the community to a bill of this kind. I thought Bill 44 might provoke the opposition at least of those who in the past expressed concerns about almost all aspects of Bill 127. However, I received information from the various boards of education, as no doubt did other members of the assembly, from the Metropolitan Toronto School Board and all the area boards that they were in support of the provisions of this bill.

I think that speaks of the talent of and the good job done by Bruce Bone. I commend the minister on her choice of Mr. Bone as the sole commissioner, with some staff, to work on this problem. I think he has managed to find a compromise. I do not know whether that is the appropriate word, but at least it is a compromise of the points of view of those who had different views on the surpluses and deficits and, particularly, on the discretionary levy.

I commend Mr. Bone on the fine job he did in striking that compromise. I have felt for some time that the Toronto board and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) have been at odds on a good many issues. When we find them one and the same, I suppose something important has

been accomplished. When we find the Toronto board one and the same with the Metropolitan Toronto School Board, that is indeed a day for cheering.

I suspect there are those in the community among parents, teacher groups and members of boards of education who are not entirely pleased with the package, but the indication we have had is that acceptance of this legislation is acceptance of a package and that, because of the compromise that has been struck, the various boards are not interested in having it tampered with one way or another to undo the balancing act of Bruce Bone.

In view of the lack of opposition and in view of our sensitivity to this issue, we in the official opposition, the Ontario Liberal Party, are supporting this legislation, Bill 44. We do not see it raising a good deal of controversy in the months to come. However, there are a number of issues to be addressed that relate to education in Metropolitan Toronto. This bill does not always address them.

As the Deputy Speaker, the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones), would know from the viewpoint of Mississauga, local boards of education are not entirely pleased with the level of funding available from the Ministry of Education and the provincial government. I suspect that is the case in many provinces. Local municipalities—and I am calling boards of education local municipalities—are not entirely pleased with the amount of funding they get from senior levels of government which are attempting to reduce their contributions because they have deficits to meet.

Certainly, that is the case in Ontario. When I talk to trustees in Metropolitan Toronto and across the province, I find they are concerned by the trend mentioned in the House today—it has been mentioned by my leader on many occasions—of provincial participation on a percentage basis in addressing the cost of education. That is an underlying factor in this bill and in the controversy that arose over Bill 127.

People are dissatisfied with the level of funding. In 1975, on average in this province the provincial government provided a fairly generous amount of funding. As I mentioned today in my supplementary question, more than 61 per cent of the cost of education came from the provincial government in 1975. To be exact, it was 61.3 per cent.

However, in 1976 we saw the beginning of a downward trend to 55.4 per cent. I would say there was quite a drop between 1975 and 1976. There seemed to be a bit of a slowdown in this

drop; nevertheless, there was a drop. In 1977 it dropped to 54.9 per cent; in 1978, to 53.3 per cent; in 1979, to 52.5 per cent; in 1980, to 52 per cent; in 1981, to 51.9 per cent; in 1982, to 50.5 per cent; and in 1983, to 48.8 per cent. We are not talking about figures I have dreamed up; we are talking about figures that were provided by the Ministry of Education as a result of a question I directed to the minister during the consideration of the spending estimates of the Ministry of Education.

We can see there is bound to be some controversy among boards of education across Ontario, and most certainly in Metropolitan Toronto, over the division of dollars and the ability to gain further revenue to carry out the programs these boards feel are necessary.

The members will know the education system today is called upon to do far more than it has done in the past. This may be either an unrealistic expectation or perhaps, as the minister has suggested, in some cases an inappropriate expectation. Nevertheless, the reality is that many parents in Ontario look to the education system to contribute not only to the academic development of students but also to their social and general development, if I may use that terminology.

The province mandates many programs. This must be in the back of the minds of those who are considering this bill. We have coming on stream in 1985 the full provisions of Bill 82, a bill that was hailed and encouraged by members of the opposition. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), the former Liberal Party critic in the field of education, was instrumental in bringing about Bill 82 through his questioning in the House, through his encouragement to the minister to bring this forward and through his public statements. He participated in a very constructive way in the development of Bill 82.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Delusions of grandeur are part of the member's thinking.

Mr. Bradley: Certainly, neither the member for Kitchener-Wilmot nor the Deputy Speaker has quarrelled with that assessment.

I say that merely to illustrate that boards of education, including the London Board of Education, do require the necessary funding to meet the mandated programs of the provincial government, plus other programs they feel are essential to the students. This is why we have tugging and pulling for funds amongst certain boards of education in Metropolitan Toronto. I am certain all of them would agree there would be less tugging for these funds, less of a quarrel

over the apportionment and the disposition of surpluses and deficits, and less controversy over the discretionary levy if the provincial government provided the degree of funding necessary to carry out those programs they consider to be desirable.

That is not necessarily the matter we are addressing today, but I know the members would want me to place that background material before the House. Instead, we are dealing with a specific provision or area which flows from Bill 127. I am pleased we were able to extract from the Minister of Education a promise to appoint a commissioner to look into this matter. As I have clearly indicated, I think her choice of the commissioner was first class.

It is not often those of us in the opposition, particularly the critics, heap praise upon the minister, but in that case I think it would be safe to say that we—at least those in our party—are pleased with the choice of the commissioner.

Mr. Grande: The member was disappointed that he supported Bill 127.

Mr. Bradley: I said only in this particular case, looking into this specific matter, the commissioner was a reasonable choice. I cannot necessarily agree with all the comments of the commissioner throughout Bill 127. The member for Oakwood will recall that the commissioner and I were not unanimous in our evaluation of the provisions of Bill 127.

3:40 p.m.

I do want to deal with the discretionary levy and the importance of the discretionary levy because I think we recognize, particularly in the city of Toronto, that there is a feeling among the majority of the members of boards of education that there is a need for additional staff. In fact, there is a feeling that additional funds should be made available to carry out important programs.

This feeling is not seen so much by those of us who live in the hinterlands, those areas outside of Metropolitan Toronto and its suburban communities. If I were to refer to areas such as the minister's as suburban communities in Metropolitan Toronto that would provoke a rather negative reaction. The Speaker does not necessarily agree.

Certainly beyond the bounds of Toronto there is not the recognition of these special needs the members who represent Toronto ridings observe. When I say Toronto, I think of the Minister of Education, the member for Oakwood and others who represent ridings within Metropolitan Toronto. Those who live outside do not recognize the multicultural, cosmopolitan nature of

Metropolitan Toronto and the special needs that arise from this fact.

The Toronto Board of Education, to its credit, has attempted to meet those needs. For instance, there are needs which result from a large number of people who reside in the city of Toronto not having English as their first language. Second, special problems often arise in the core of a city that require additional funding from government to meet them.

I am not suggesting funding is the be-all and end-all. I think it was the Premier (Mr. Davis) or perhaps it was the Minister of Education, one of the two anyway, who said today that opposition members tend to equate the expenditure of public funds with quality in education. It is my view that while the quality of education is not completely dependent on the expenditure of funds, it is to a very large degree dependent on the amount of investment the provincial government is prepared to put into education.

This is why the Toronto Board of Education has considered it necessary to participate in additional fund-raising through a discretionary levy. This allows people within its own boundaries to provide additional funds, for instance, to hire additional teachers to meet the program obligations they have set forth as being necessary. During the consideration of Bill 127, I certainly agreed with that need.

I would prefer not to see the cap stipulated in this bill. I indicated that two mills would be more appropriate than 1.5 mills. The minister has indicated, and she has done so based on her support from the metropolitan board and the other boards, that people are prepared to at least buy this compromise. I do express concern because I do not like that kind of cap.

I understand Mr. Bone says the Toronto Board of Education, when it provides an additional levy, has available to it far more from assessment resources. The assessment is less penalizing on the individual home owner or the residential component than perhaps would be the case in other municipalities or other boards of education.

Nevertheless, it also has special problems. All of us who sat on the committee would remember the groups that came in from various parts of Toronto, including Parkdale. The member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) and the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) sat on the committee with me. The member for Oakwood, who is here, sat on that committee. One after the other these groups came in to indicate strong support for the expenditures which had been made for special programs within the jurisdiction

of their boards of education. They expressed genuine concern that Bill 127 might have an extremely adverse effect on the education of their children.

Those concerns were met to a very small degree through the compromises the opposition were able to extract in that bill. There was still a concern among them and the teaching profession that there was unnecessary interference with the negotiation process in Metropolitan Toronto. This bill does not address that specifically but it addresses other problems I want to deal with.

I want to indicate to this House that I see the need for the discretionary levy. I see the need for the continuation of this discretionary levy mainly because the provincial government does not provide, in my view at least, the necessary amount of funding in the form of grants to the boards of education in this part of the province or in any other part of the province.

In relation to this bill, I read with interest the Bone report when it was first released. It received scant attention initially. Those who were directly involved with it knew of its provisions, but it did not receive the general fanfare one might expect. Although there was a potential for some opposition to it, that opposition, as I have indicated to members, is either muted, nonexistent or buried in the compromise.

First of all, when he addressed certain issues, the question was asked, "Should boards be allowed to continue using a discretionary levy?" I supported that strongly and, as Mr. Bone found out, there was a good deal of support for that across Metropolitan Toronto, less enthusiastic in certain parts of Metro than others. Nevertheless, there seemed to be general support for the continuation of it.

There was also the question of on just what items boards should be allowed to spend a discretionary levy. In the material the minister has provided to us, she indicates some might have talked of building additional facilities, hiring additional teachers and other operating costs, and that is a matter Mr. Bone did address. He found in this study that all boards are treated fairly in the allocation of teachers by the Metropolitan Toronto School Board. At least that is what his study revealed. There may be some within those boards who do not agree with that, but it is interesting that would come forward.

Virtually all groups felt some sort of discretionary levy should be continued. That, in itself, is interesting, because I detected among some boards of education within the parameters of Metro some opposition to that, but they said

some form of discretionary levy should be continued.

The report said Metropolitan Toronto is one community for education purposes, but the two-tier system is the best method of providing public education services. I agree with that. It may be unfair at times, but I am tempted to equate this with my own area and municipal government, that is the regional municipality of Niagara. If I had to make a choice of eliminating one level or the other, I would prefer to retain the local municipality. I would not want to see in Metropolitan Toronto, certainly not in the foreseeable future, as I would not want to see in Niagara using that analogy, an abolition of the local governments or the local boards of education.

I was pleased to see Mr. Bone had found, while Metropolitan Toronto is one community for education, there is a need for a lot of co-operation and sharing within Metro, and the two-tier system is the best way of providing public education services. The lower tier, in my view, tends to reflect the views of the special communities in Metropolitan Toronto, and I am pleased to see that continue.

I notice the report also says any changes that are made must contribute to increased equalization of educational opportunities for all pupils in Metropolitan Toronto. Most would agree we have to have equal opportunities. Some think equality is effected by pulling everyone down to one level; others think equality is brought about by bringing all up to one level. I hope we will follow the latter course of bringing all up to the highest quality of education available.

There was also a notation that there was a great deal of inequity among the area boards and the amount of money each board can raise by the local levy. There was almost universal agreement that the inequity should be corrected. We know there is not complete fairness in Metropolitan Toronto in terms of what is available. If one looks at the assessment base, that is easy to see. If one looks at East York, for instance, and compares it with Toronto, one knows very clearly there are not the same resources available. That is something that has to be addressed. That is where the Metropolitan Toronto board comes in with respect to providing that kind of equality, by assisting those who do not have special resources available to them.

3:50 p.m.

There was an indication in Mr. Bone's findings that a more equitable mill rate for residential taxpayers could be achieved across all

Metropolitan Toronto if residential ratepayers were assessed at 85 per cent of the rate paid by commercial and industrial ratepayers.

In other words, it would be more equitable and would contribute to a more equitable mill rate if all the home owners across Metro paid a 15 per cent lower tax rate on education than industrial and commercial taxpayers. It is my understanding that met with general approval as part of the package.

There was one aspect of the commission's report that was not accepted. We will not have to deal with it in this bill simply because it was obviously not acceptable to those who were prepared to buy the compromise.

He talked about changes in methods dealing with surpluses and deficits that would result in a fairer and more equitable interpretation of the current provisions of Bill 127. There was considerable controversy during the debate on Bill 127 on the treatment of surpluses and deficits.

There is one school of thought that says we should be encouraging local boards of education to effect as many economies as possible, even if that means a reduction in the quality of education available at a particular board. In the original provisions or suggestions of Bill 127, it seemed they pointed to favour those that were prepared to reduce the potential for spending on education.

There were those of us in the opposition who felt that all would be fine if the province would pay its fair share, but since the province was not paying its fair share, in our view it would be necessary to treat surpluses and deficits in such a manner as not to penalize those boards that were prepared to spend additional dollars to provide quality education.

We also know when we are dealing with these that sometimes a provincial Treasurer has an effect on the requirements of a local board of education. It was so when the former provincial Treasurer said, "We need more money for the provincial government and therefore, we are going to put taxes on school materials associated with education." All of a sudden, a local board of education is whacked with additional financial commitments.

The present Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) may say, "We are going to increase Ontario health insurance plan premiums and boards of education must pay a certain portion of those premiums." That is an unexpected cost that comes forward. We can see why some deficits are forthcoming.

We also know there is potential for a board to rack up a surplus so it can look good the next year, which might be an election year, by returning money to the taxpayer in the form of a lower mill rate, or a lower mill rate increase than might have been expected. I guess that is an old trick. Spend a certain amount of money and accumulate a surplus; if people are unhappy with the mill rate one year, you will be able to reduce the mill rate the next year by using up the surplus funds. That was a problem that had to be addressed.

The compromise has apparently been accepted. I am a little surprised this compromise has been accepted, but in the context of a total package I suppose one should expect that to be the case.

The commission then recommended that the boards continue to be allowed to raise a discretionary levy up to a defined limit. That is part of the bill. I am not happy with that defined limit, but that is part of this bill. I would prefer a higher limit if there must be a defined limit.

The local levy must be allowed to be used for hiring additional teachers only if access to local levy funds is more equitable with all those area boards. Through this legislation, that has been brought about.

The level of the discretionary levy remains at 1.5 mills for elementary and one mill for secondary, but the method of calculating the funds available to each board has to be altered so that access to local levy funds would be equally available to all boards. I am somewhat surprised the Toronto Board of Education was prepared to accept that but by letter and public pronouncement it has said it is prepared to accept it, so far be it for me to quarrel with the Toronto Board of Education when it is most directly affected by that provision.

The commission has also recommended that because the Toronto Board of Education is the only board in Metropolitan Toronto using the discretionary levy to hire additional teachers, it should be allowed a phase-in period until 1988 to adjust to the reduction in the number of additional teachers it would be able to hire under the Bone recommendation.

In any legislation that is going to have a marked effect on any group, I think a phase-in period is always necessary. I was with the task force on market value assessment in Niagara Falls.

Mr. Conway: The member heard some remarkable things, as I recall.

Mr. Bradley: We certainly did hear remarkable things from those who are supporters of the opposition, from those who are supporters of the government, and perhaps even from those who support no one in particular but make a choice at election time.

When there was not a phase-in in Niagara Falls, the impact on the local people was very great. The provincial government has not been particularly helpful in allowing for that kind of phase-in. It is going to be easier for this provision to be implemented because in the legislation the government has allowed for this phase-in.

The minister was also to consider amendments that would have residential ratepayers assessed at 85 per cent of the rate assessed to commercial and industrial ratepayers for school purposes. That has apparently been looked upon generally with favour. Concerning the changes to be made to the surplus, some provisions in Bill 127 are contained in this bill.

As I have indicated, we are supportive of this, with a little reluctance but supportive of it nevertheless. I often wonder whether it is the place of the members of Legislature to overrule those who are elected at the local level, those who are closest to the people in terms of access and who are democratically elected as members of boards of education.

There are occasions when the ministry must step in. There are occasions when we, as legislators, must find ourselves in disagreement with those people.

Mr. Conway: This is not a shrinking violet of a Minister of Education in that connection.

Mr. Bradley: I will allow Hansard to pick that up. We have found in this case that through the deftness of the commissioner chosen by the Minister of Education—

Mr. Conway: A Liberal who ran for us.

Mr. Bradley: —this was accomplished. A fine fellow he is.

Mr. Bone proposed that if an area board incurred a deficit, then the deficit should be deducted from the total amount of money the area board is eligible to raise by discretionary levy the following year. Apparently, in the total package, this has been made acceptable.

In addition, he recommended the local taxpayers whose school boards operate economically should be rewarded more generously than the current interpretation of the Bill 127 legislation allows. In other words, if an area board has a surplus at the end of the year, Mr. Bone's recommendations would allow the area board to return more money to its local taxpayers.

I have mentioned my concern about this provision. It is that boards may tend to eliminate essential services to be visibly showing that kind of economy. One would hope there is good judgement at the local level. More often than not, I think there is that kind of good judgement which allows a board of education to provide quality education while at the same time not squandering funds on those areas that are not necessary.

I say it is possible for the local boards to continue to do this, but I express a little concern that once again we see some pointing in the direction of favour for those boards that are prepared to limit their expenditures in the field of education.

4 p.m.

If I am to look at the bill in total, I place myself in the category of being prepared to announce the support of this party for the bill and to say that unfortunately it does not deal with the underlying problem facing education today. My leader has enunciated this problem on many occasions, I have stated it in the House and I think many people at the local level have stated it; that is, underfunding of the system by the provincial government.

What we see emerging beneath the bill, and perhaps surrounding it, is that the local taxpayer is forced to assume a greater portion of the cost of education as the years go on. As all members know, increased unemployment in our province provides a double whammy for those communities that are hit particularly hard by unemployment in the economic recession.

Some 22 per cent of the people in the St. Catharines-Niagara area were unemployed at the worst period, and a large percentage of people still are. If an individual was unemployed for seven or eight months, he or she would not pay as much income tax, because obviously the income was not being generated. Also, that person likely cut back on expenditure, so he or she would also be paying less sales tax.

The one tax that continues to come in, regardless of the person's ability to pay and the economic circumstances, is the property tax. The city of St. Catharines sent out a tax bill that took into consideration the levy of the Lincoln County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, the Lincoln County Board of Education, the regional municipality of Niagara and the city itself. Its tax bill to the people in St. Catharines said taxpayers must pay \$1,400 in municipal taxes; it did not add, "if you are not unemployed" or "if you happened to have a good year economically."

Looked at from that point of view, there is a great advantage to having the province, with its greater number of taxes and the more progressive form of taxation available to it, participating to a greater extent and alleviating the burden on the local taxpayer. The latter must pay the most regressive form of tax—that is the property tax—in assuming his portion of the cost of education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Dr. Jackson does not think it is regressive.

Mr. Bradley: Dr. Jackson may not have been correct in that regard. I think it is regressive when it does not take into—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You may not be correct in that regard, either.

Mr. Bradley: It is quite logical. If the Minister of Education were listening to what I said and to the example I gave, how could she say that is anything other than a regressive form of taxation? She runs from that argument because she knows I am correct. I am sure the Speaker agrees with me, though I will not ask him to nod in acquiescence.

Mr. Conway: Surely the minister does not run from the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley).

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Never. After him, perhaps, but not from him.

Mr. Conway: She seems to run indiscriminately at a lot of people—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for St. Catharines has the floor.

Mr. Bradley: I am being interrupted by both the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and the Minister of Education.

I know the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) would agree with me. He spent more money than the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), according to the last constituency newsletter of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He would agree with me that the property tax is not the best way of financing education.

No one has suggested the property tax is going to be abolished, although there may be some compelling arguments in favour of abolishing it for education purposes. Reality dictates that is not going to happen. We in the opposition, members of boards of education and many people in the education community are all saying the province should increase its participation. Rather than continuing to decrease it, the province should increase on a progressive basis

its percentage of the cost of education that it assumes each year.

If this had been done, legislation of this kind might not even be necessary. The controversy over Bill 127 might not even have arisen. This bill is a fix for a particular problem in Metropolitan Toronto. It is a compromise arrived at after some discussion and some give and take on both sides, but it does not answer the fundamental problem affecting education today, and that is the underfunding of the system on the part of this government, which likes to brag that it has the best education system in the world. I know the minister in her heart of hearts would very likely agree with that contention.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise and speak with respect to Bill 44, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, an act that distils the wisdom of the Bone commission, which inquired into the discretionary levy for education in Metropolitan Toronto.

The bill in most respects not only has won the support of the combined boards of Metropolitan Toronto but has also apparently won the support of the teachers' organizations in this province, and there appears to be very little by way of outcry or criticism from other quarters.

The bill, I should say, represents good news. The good news, however, is not the good news that was referred to in the Toronto Star report of March 2, which noted there was good news in store for Metro residents by virtue of the fact that the minister might be returning surpluses to local school boards.

The good news in this bill is that the minister has agreed to move on a major issue that was left over from the controversy over Bill 127. That bill, as members may remember, was one in which this party attempted to organize, and very effectively organized, a major coalition of groups in this city to bring the combined opposition of the parents and teachers, some of the boards and others to that bill and to its implications for the issue of local autonomy in the educational establishment of Metropolitan Toronto.

The good news is that while this issue was left over, it was put into capable hands, which have rendered a decision that is quite contrary to the initial provision of Bill 127, which had intended to put discretionary levies to one side and to make it impossible for local boards to indulge in them.

The minister was prevailed upon by that coalition to look again at the discretionary levy. She did so through the instrumentation of the

Bone commission. What the Bone commission has done is to provide us with a ringing endorsement of a major principle of local autonomy as it functions within the structure of the Metropolitan Toronto School Board and its relationships with the local boards in this metropolitan region.

I say this is good news because it tells us the minister is not, after all, impervious to good sense; it tells us the minister is prepared to move on important issues when she is confronted by those who oppose her; it tells us that wisdom, after all, can prevail and that, after all, issues such as local autonomy are not lost in an increasing consolidation of bureaucratic establishments which so mark our modern world.

We in this party still have significant reservations with regard to the metropolitan board's structure; we still have reservations with regard to any other aspect of Bill 127, to which I think we brought something on the order of 50 or more amendments and secured, I think, only one major amendment and one reference out from the bill, namely, the issue of the discretionary levy.

4:10 p.m.

The issue of local autonomy is not one that attaches purely and simply to the discretionary levy issue. It attaches also to the two other major questions that the Bone commission addressed, namely, the question of equalizing assessments in Metropolitan Toronto and the question of surpluses and deficits. It is not only the matter of discretion in a local board that reflects its capacity to exercise its autonomy but also the financial resources available to it.

We all know that boards in Toronto have been in an unequal status with respect to their access to resources, and therefore it was the essence of wisdom for the commissioner, Mr. Bone, to move on to the question of equalizing assessments, just as it was important for him to look at the question of surpluses and deficits, which again relate to the capacity of boards to fulfil their mandates with resources at hand.

If I may turn to the major issue, which prompted the establishment of the commission and which lies at the heart of this piece of legislation, the discretionary levy was, I reiterate, an important victory for local autonomy. What it does is provide local boards with the capacity to raise additional moneys they wish to address for specific purposes. Wisely, the Bone commission chose not to limit the subject upon which that money might be spent.

There was considerable discussion on whether it should be restricted to nonpersonnel matters and should not be allowed to be spent on the

hiring of additional teachers. The commission ruled in its wisdom that there should be no limit, other than a financial upper limit, upon the exercise of the discretionary levy. In that respect, I think the maximum amount of autonomy was relayed back to local school boards in the decision in question.

There are those who are concerned that the discretionary levy might have an upward influence upon property taxation. I hasten to say that nothing in this bill institutes the principle of property taxation. On the contrary, the fact that limits are placed upon the ability of boards to exercise the discretionary levy, to the tune of 1.5 mills with respect to elementary education or one mill with respect to secondary education, seems to me to put those fears to one side. This party opposes the wholesale use of property taxation as now the larger part of the base of educational spending in this province. We have argued for some time that there must be a more progressive foundation laid for educational financing in Ontario.

I hasten to say that the discretionary levy does not in itself affect that issue substantially one way or the other. It is true that it does affect one board more adversely than others. That, of course, is the city of Toronto board, which was the one board that opted to use discretionary levies to maintain and even expand on the hiring of teachers in its system, to maintain and enhance pupil-teacher ratios and to maintain programs that were important to it. This legislation recognizes that board does have a particular problem and allows a bridge mechanism whereby over several years that board can phase its own way into the discretionary levy as it affects the hiring of teachers.

The second major issue the Bone commission addressed, namely, the equalization of assessments, arose out of the consideration that the discretionary levy itself was not equally accessible to all boards in the metropolitan region. In addressing the discretionary levy, the commission looked at the capacity of boards to utilize that device. In doing so, it framed proposals that would make it possible for boards in the metropolitan region to have roughly equal access to the discretionary levy. That raised larger questions of equalizing assessments.

It is to the credit of the commission and the report it produced that it concluded this was the time to move to a greater degree of equalization of assessment across the face of Metropolitan Toronto. This party supports that and recognizes it wholeheartedly. The proposal relates to the

issue of the pooling of property taxation, but I want to say to those who have reservations about pooling itself that again this particular proposal does not itself initiate the question of pooling. What it addresses is the issue of the equitability of a pooling arrangement. What it does essentially is to alter what was an unfair pooling arrangement among the Metro boards based on market value assessment by weighting the assessment in a different fashion so that each municipality is in a much healthier situation vis-à-vis the resources that are available to it.

What this does for Toronto is a major accomplishment. It brings Torontonians together. It ends the circumstance in which one municipality can look across a boundary at another and envy the level of its taxation rate. What it will do as well, of course, by bringing Torontonians together in a greater degree of solidarity, if I can use that word, around the funding question within Metro itself, is to make it less easy for the ministry in the future to divide and conquer in the Metro region and to exploit those divisions.

Third, with respect to the matter of surpluses, which this legislation addresses—and, of course, this must be coupled with the issue of deficits—it will be common knowledge that this party opposed the access of local boards to surplus moneys that derived from outside that local board's boundaries. We did not want to see local boards given excessive temptation in the matter of building up surpluses, a temptation that could be exercised to the detriment of the delivery of quality education within that board's boundaries. Therefore, we proposed that only the portion of the surplus which arose within the boundaries of that board should be available to the board; again that amendment was accepted in the course of debate and became part of the ultimate legislation in Bill 127.

The commission has looked once more at that question and has concluded that, just as boards have responsibility for deficits, they should likewise have access to such surpluses as they generate. What the commission has proposed is, I suppose, something of a halfway house between the original amendment and the total availability of surpluses.

It has therefore devised a mechanism that will enhance the access to those surpluses on the part of local boards, but without making them wholly and fully accessible on an across-the-board basis. It does this by relating it by a formula to the proportion that the expenditures of a local board represent in relation to the expenditures of the Metro boards in total.

We still have some reservations on that subject. We do not wish to see local boards under too heavy a temptation to generate surpluses. But we also know local boards have major objectives in delivering quality education. We know they have to have moneys to do that, and therefore we are not unhappy to see them have available some additional moneys out of the surpluses to accomplish it.

We know that one of the major boards in question, namely, the Toronto board, which will be one of the three boards benefiting most from this arrangement by securing a 100 per cent return of its surplus, is the only board that is in a negative grant situation in Toronto; in fact, it is the only one, I think, that receives no money at all overall from the ministry. It is also the board that is perhaps most concerned about quality education issues, and therefore we expect and hope that it, the North York board and the Etobicoke board, which will get 100 per cent returns, will use those moneys for those purposes. It is unfortunate the formula does not work quite so much to the advantage of the three other boards; none the less, it does improve their access to those surpluses.

4:20 p.m.

While we still have some concern about the principle of the overavailability of surpluses, we do not feel the present amendment is so great a change from the original amendment as to render our original objection out of court. Having access to surpluses, as well as being responsible for deficits, is one of the major issues with respect to the matter of local autonomy.

In that respect, one issue that does continue to concern us in local autonomy for local boards is the matter of a lack of definition that still remains, hanging over from the Bill 127 debate and from Bill 127 itself. This legislation makes no major attack on it. It is the definition as to what is local and what is central in the concerns of the local boards and the Metro board in Toronto.

Clearly, this can be a most disputatious matter that will trouble future negotiations between educational parties in Toronto unless it is cleared up. We hope the minister will move on that question. Just as she has recently established a committee to look at the issue of finance, we hope she will also set up a working group to clarify the question of what is local and what is central in educational relationships in Toronto. That comes right to the heart of the question of local autonomy. Unless one finally does know

what one's autonomy is all about in quite concrete terms, it really is a debatable asset.

For the future, while on this narrow spectrum of legislation we find the advances significant overall and the compromises notable, and the advance for Metropolitan Toronto one that is beneficial to all parties, we recognize that the Metropolitan board and the local boards are still vulnerable to the levels of provincial funding.

The trend in that respect is not one that gives us great encouragement. The previous speaker has referred to the changing balance of educational financial responsibilities in this province to a point where in the last year provincial responsibility has slipped to a 48.5 per cent level. That is a far cry from where it stood a decade ago.

I also want to draw the attention of this House that in a recent issue of the Canadian Tax Journal there were some unusual and alarming statistics on the subject of Ontario's spending on education in relation to national spending levels as a percentage of gross provincial product by sector.

In each of those sectors, whether elementary and secondary spending, post-secondary spending or vocational and occupational spending, the decline across the country was notable, but it was most notable in this province. In each of those sectors, with the exception of post-secondary education, in 1971 this province began at a level below the national average, stayed below the national average, stands below the national average and is still so to this day.

For example, if one looks back to the years in which debate over Bill 127 began, 1982 and 1983, one notes that over the period 1975 to 1982 the province cut its share of support for education in Metropolitan Toronto from 33 per cent to 15 per cent. When one looks at the change in expenditure between 1980 and 1982, the province paid \$590 per pupil in the latter year and spent \$608 in 1980, a decline of \$18 per pupil in two years.

When one looks at recent reports about the problem of where educational taxation will have to go in the Metro region in the course of this coming year, the news we receive is that the Queen's Park contribution to the Metro schools' budget will decline by 18 per cent.

When the Premier said last night in his speech at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education he wanted to reserve to one side the matter of resource allocation, it is pretty obvious why he wanted to put that question to one side. The story is lamentable and it is not getting any better, not just for Metropolitan Toronto but for this province.

One of the grounds on which we are urged to support this legislation has been that it would give some relief to Metro taxpayers. We were urged to support it because, otherwise, spending in Toronto that would be levied upon the property taxpayers of the metropolitan region would go up inordinately. We were to be shamed into not opposing this bill, lest we be attacked for being party to the increase in mill rates in the metropolitan region.

That is one word that came to us as political advice, and that is very strong political advice to give to any party. But I want to say that while we are supporting this legislation and we are happy to be of assistance to the citizens of Toronto in maintaining reasonable increases and preventing unreasonable increases in property taxation rates, my colleagues and I in this party want to serve notice, as we have in the past, that we are not prepared to stand by and see the advance in equity and autonomy this bill represents undermined by pernicious annual retreats by this government from fair funding for Metro and for all the boards of this province.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I rise without the detailed and specific knowledge the Minister of Education, my colleague the member for Hamilton West and my colleague the member for St. Catharines have about the details of the bill.

I do want to say, very briefly, on behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party caucus from the city of Toronto proper, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) and myself, we do appreciate the rather statesmanlike position the Toronto Board of Education took in the discussions and negotiations following upon the rather acerbic debate related to Bill 127 which culminated in the initiative taken under pressure by the Minister of Education to appoint the Bruce Bone commission and the subsequent discussions of the report of that commission, which brought about some sense of equity on the two vexed questions of a uniform mill rate for educational purposes in Metropolitan Toronto and of the discretionary levy.

One must not underestimate or misunderstand. In agreeing to move towards a uniform mill rate across the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the city of Toronto board, at the same time, on the matter of the discretionary levy, has lost a considerable amount of money, as far as I can tell from the information I have. It was quite clear the city of Toronto, with a higher proportion of commercial assessment to total assessment than

residential assessment, was going to benefit in the historical development of the mill rate for educational purposes in permitting the city to have a lower residential mill rate for educational purposes than was available to the other boroughs, which are now the other cities, and the remaining borough in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

4:30 p.m.

It is always with a considerable amount of regret that one takes the kind of statesmanlike position the Toronto Board of Education has taken. We realize it will, incrementally, mean an increase in the residential tax rate as it is at present levied in the city of Toronto for educational purposes. I do not know the extent and degree of that incremental raise, but the movement towards a uniform mill rate across the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto will restore what the board of education of the city and those of us who represent city constituencies proper believe to have always been the intention with respect to the educational levy in Metro Toronto as a whole.

On the question of the discretionary levy, there was always a kind of anomaly about the discussion of the discretionary level on the grounds that the other area municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto did not have a discretionary levy, but at the same time they indicated they were upset about the city of Toronto having one. If they had in their turn a discretionary levy, they would not be able to obtain as much money.

It is my understanding the city of Toronto has been in the past, and is now, the only area municipality with a discretionary levy for educational purposes. Be that as it may, the net effect of what the minister proposes with respect to that discretionary levy is that while the city of Toronto can levy up to the stated one per cent, that amount of money will then be reduced to the amount that would have been produced if a levy had been spread across the whole of Metropolitan Toronto.

If the information I have is correct, and on the basis of the assumptions that always have to be made in connection with projections, in 1986 the elementary system of the city of Toronto will have only \$4.3 million available to it under the discretionary level instead of \$4.7 million. The secondary school system will have only \$2.8 million available instead of \$3.4 million. In 1986, with those assumptions on the discretionary level, there will be a net loss, through changes being made to the amount that levy

would otherwise be, in the neighbourhood of \$1 million.

Somebody can say that is not very much when one considers that the whole of the budget of the city of Toronto is in the neighbourhood of \$350 million. But we in the assembly understand that substantially all of the costs of the province's budget are fixed costs. The value of \$1 million of discretionary funds has a much more important flexibility than a simple reference on a percentage basis of \$1 million to \$350 million.

On behalf of our colleagues, I did want to say to the House that the spirit in which the Toronto Board of Education has approached the recommendations of the Bone commission, the discussions which have taken place, the degree of magnanimity it has shown and the amicable result that is mirrored in this bill, is something I trust the minister will not forget, taking into account the acerbic atmosphere in which the whole of this matter was originally projected into this assembly when we discussed Bill 127.

I do not know whether in the bear pit of any politics, let alone the bear pit of Metropolitan Toronto politics, one gets any marks for statesmanship or for taking the high ground. But if there are any marks in the political world, then I think the Toronto Board of Education deserves those marks. I simply wanted to indicate to the assembly the appreciation I have for the difficult decision the board had to make in accepting this particular compromise, but also to indicate quite clearly, so far as I can tell, the cost to the residential taxpayers in the city of Toronto proper and the cost to the Toronto Board of Education with respect to the discretionary levy that the acceptance of this bill indicates.

While I am not particularly happy about the result, for the reasons given by the Toronto Board of Education and for the basic motivations that were behind the acceptance of the recommendation of the Bone commission, I am quite prepared to accept the bill.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, I will also be very brief on this. I want to classify Bill 44 as the bill in which the Minister of Education basically says "mea culpa, mea maxima culpa." That means, basically, a public apology for being so intractable, for being so stubborn, for being politically unbending during the debates on Bill 127.

The minister rarely listens to what anybody says. I do not blame her for continuing on with that frame of mind.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Because the member never says anything new. He is so predictable that we don't have to.

Mr. Grande: The Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) says I am predictable. Every day during question period we know how predictable he is and where he comes down hard and fast.

The members will remember that the initial Bill 127 was brought into this Legislature some time ago, a year or a year and a half ago, and we spent six months debating it. That bill originally had completely abolished the local levy until parents in Metropolitan Toronto, the Workgroup of Metro Parents, trustees from the city of Toronto and other people across Metropolitan Toronto started to protest that move, started to say to the minister and to the government: "Do you realize what you are doing? Do you realize by getting rid of this local levy you are preventing classes for children who need to learn how to speak English? Do you understand what you are doing is preventing classes from being established for children who require special education in Toronto? Do you know that by getting rid of the local levy you are asking school boards to close small schools? Do you realize getting rid of the local levy means Toronto will have to fire teachers and thereby cut programs?"

Those people brought the protest to the minister in no uncertain terms, and the minister grudgingly bent. I remember she went down to the Holiday Inn in Toronto and said, "Of course, I will keep the local levy in there up to one mill, elementary." That was the first sign that the minister, after months of battling, had decided to become politically flexible.

4:40 p.m.

This bill says the local levy for those particular school boards that choose to have the local levy will be maintained at one and a half mills, elementary, and one mill, secondary.

Basically, what I would like to say to you, Mr. Speaker, because the minister is again not listening, is this bill is a victory of sorts. It is a victory for those people in Metropolitan Toronto who think education and the delivery of educational services to children are important and are a must.

Of course, the other aspect of the mea culpa bill is in terms of the surplus and deficit provisions. Everybody remembers what the member for St. Catharines mentioned, which is that during the committee hearings on Bill 127, we in the combined opposition, along with teachers and parents, were able to get the Minister of Education, with the majority the government has in committee, to accept one and only one of the 50 amendments I had put forward to that committee on behalf of this party.

The minister accepted the recommendation, but by the time we got to clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 127, the minister had already heard the advice of the John Toltons of this world. Basically, the minister said, "I want to change my mind on that to which I agreed."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What was it the York Board of Education said to you?

Mr. Grande: I remember exactly what the chairman at that time—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What was it that board said to you after the meeting was past and what did its representatives say to your leader?

Mr. Grande: Again, the minister does not want to listen.

I remember exactly what the chairman of the York Board of Education said to the minister as she stomped out of the committee, angry and frustrated with the minister. I remember that.

It is obvious that the kinds of arguments put forward in the committee were accepted by the minister. The logic and the fairness of those arguments were acceptable to the minister. This is how we got the amendment through.

As a result of that amendment and the Bill 127 struggle—and I like to call it a struggle because it was a struggle to protect educational services for children in Metropolitan Toronto—we had a commission, with the minister appointing Mr. Bruce Bone as commissioner.

Basically, Mr. Bone heard the point of view of the Toronto Board of Education and the other Metropolitan Toronto boards. In his wisdom, he decided the best way to go about it would not be the way the minister originally intended, but instead by bringing about peace in the educational milieu of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Bone said to the minister: "Here, accept this; it is peace we are after." Basically, I agree wholeheartedly with what my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) just said. The Toronto Board of Education stands to lose. There is no doubt about it. It stands to lose, but not as much as it would have lost if the minister had her way in getting rid of the local levy altogether. It still stands to lose, however.

The Toronto Board of Education has always said, even before Bill 127, that it was willing to share the money it would gather from the taxes. The Toronto Board of Education has been saying that, not only for years, but back to the time the Metropolitan Toronto School Board decided to dissolve itself. The Toronto Board of Education was saying, "Yes, we are willing to share approximately \$10 million with other area boards in Metropolitan Toronto."

It was willing to do this so the Metropolitan Toronto School Board would no longer have to be in existence. However, the minister and her government decided the Metropolitan Toronto School Board should be there and that it should be strengthened. I suppose the parents and people in Metropolitan Toronto who were concerned will have to look to the Metropolitan Toronto School Board for their protests and to protest to that board that they are dissatisfied with the educational service and the delivery of those services to their children.

Let me end by saying to the Minister that we accept her public apology.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to sum up the second reading debate on Bill 44, I am delighted to have had positive responses to all of the subject matter put forward in Bill 44.

Members will recall it was as a result of the ongoing dispute between five area boards, one metropolitan board and the Toronto board regarding the retention of discretionary levy, that modifications and the suggestion regarding the commission were raised during the debate in the usual conciliatory manner of the minister. They were not as a result of any pressure exerted by the member for Oakwood who has an absolutely dreadful memory. I believe we should give him lessons in memory retention and chronology.

Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Did I hear the minister say, "in the usual conciliatory fashion of this minister"?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course. What else would the member expect me to say?

The Bone commission was appointed to investigate the rationale, the validity, of the retention of the discretionary levy. It is my understanding that during the deliberations which took place in the drafting of the final report, the commissioner explained the two alternatives to each and every board within the system.

One of the two alternatives was included within the report; a calculation which provides for greater equalization of the capacity of the levying of the discretionary levy in all of the boards throughout Metropolitan Toronto. The alternative was the absolute abolition of the discretionary levy.

While a significant number of the boards recommended strongly that there be absolute abolition, there was a good deal of discussion about it. A compromise was reached amongst all of the boards that the proposal, as developed within the commission's report and translated into legislation, would be a more appropriate

situation, considering the kinds of circumstances the Toronto board would find itself in if there were immediate, absolute abolition.

It is not only a measure of the capacity of the Toronto board for some degree of magnanimity, but a very significant measure of the capacity of all of the other area boards for the same kind of capacity for compromise which we have within the Bone commission report and which is appropriately translated into legislation.

There is no doubt each of the boards, given its own circumstances and its own attitudes, would probably come up with a slightly different set of circumstances and sections under the legislation to deal with all of these matters, but they have agreed they each will accept the total package as presented by Bone, without amendment, without any change. The only other stipulation I heard from any of them was that if there were a change of any kind, none of them could accept the legislation.

4:50 p.m.

Therefore, I am delighted to know the members of the Legislature have recognized the wisdom of the compromise reached by the boards themselves. In this Legislature, we are serving those boards, and thereby the students in their jurisdiction. We have agreed to accept this legislation, which looks relatively complicated for a relatively straightforward kind of activity, but is a matter which has been agreed to by all of the boards.

I am delighted all the members in their presentations have supported the position taken by the commissioner and by the legislation itself.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, If members of the House are agreeable, we could call the order for third reading now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson moved third reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: As I understand the rules of this House it is certainly uncommon, and I believe unprecedented, to have second and third readings on the same day.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I asked for unanimous consent and I thought I had it. If my friend wants to say no, that is fine and we will hold the third reading.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, while the member is considering that, we in the Liberal Party

have no difficulty at all in acceding to the request for unanimous consent for third reading.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, it is not a precedent, and it is generally agreed. We rarely have third readings on the same day, but I understood there was some urgency for this bill. His Honour is giving royal assent to the bills that have received third reading at five o'clock today, so it would be possible for this bill to have royal assent today if we pass it now. If there is not unanimous consent, that is fine.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The House leader has responded. Perhaps there is a problem with members of the third party.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, the question I have of the minister and of the government House leader is whether it is important to do it today. I understood, when we had the consultation with the minister on this bill, that the concerned parties were interested in having the legislation passed as soon as possible. I understood as soon as possible was May 1, plus three, four or five days, that there was that latitude. If that is the case, I urge upon the government House leader and the minister the fact that orders of this House are important, and if they can be honoured I believe they should be honoured.

The Acting Speaker: The member has explained his point of order. If he does not want it to proceed, I do not hear him saying that. It is up for third reading at this point. Is there any further discussion or debate on this bill?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Shall I respond to his point of order?

The Acting Speaker: The member has made his point of order. We have listened to it and I do not see him fully objecting. If he wants to object, then we will poll it and proceed.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, when I raised a point of order I also phrased a question to the minister and the government House leader. Under the circumstances, I think it would be helpful for us to have an answer. They have pleaded that kind of urgency is there. I was told in consultations that it was not there, in precisely those terms.

The Acting Speaker: Rather than have the government House leader respond, is the member objecting because we are discussing the third reading of Bill 44?

Mr. Allen: I am objecting and wish to know the circumstances.

The Acting Speaker: Is the member saying, "Therefore, we vote to withdraw the bill"?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, may I rise in response to the question that has been raised. As I understand it, it is absolutely essential this bill be passed as rapidly as possible because Metropolitan Toronto has to pass the money bill, and we are already a day late in that activity. Every day that is delayed poses a greater problem for all the boards and for Metropolitan Toronto. Therefore, we were requested to have the bill in place, if possible, by April 30. When we discovered it was not possible, we were told there might be some possibility for a little flexibility, but the sooner it could be passed the better it would be for all the governments within Metropolitan Toronto related to this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have consent to proceed with third reading?

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

House in committee of the whole.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, in taking the bill through the committee stage for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), I might make a couple of introductory comments regarding the amendments the ministry will be putting before the House for consideration when considering this bill.

The government will be moving certain amendments to Bill 141, and in introducing these amendments I would like to point out that they result from some of the representations that were made before the standing committee on resources development on January 9, 10 and 11. The Minister of Labour attended and took part on each day of the hearings and I also attended some of the hearings both as a substitute member of the committee and as parliamentary assistant.

As members are aware, Bill 141 is a comprehensive set of amendments to the Employment Standards Act. The sections of the act affecting women—that is, the equal pay provisions in part IX and the pregnancy leave provisions in part XI—have been significantly improved by the amendments being proposed under Bill 141.

All of the major proposals of the bill are being preserved. The composite test for equal pay remains intact, and in our view this represents a significant improvement in ensuring that women receive equal pay for equal work. The reduction in the length of service required to qualify for the 17-week pregnancy leave under section 36 is unchanged. The protection of the six-week

postnatal period for those not meeting the 12-month service requirement under the proposed section 37a also remains unaltered.

The amendments we are proposing to this bill clarify the intent and enhance the protections afforded under sections 33, 35 and 38 of the Employment Standards Act. Briefly, the substance of the proposed amendments we will be putting forward is as follows.

Subsection 33(3) of the act has been slightly restructured to ensure that equal pay is required except where pay differentials are related to a company-wide system based on seniority or service, a measure of productivity or merit, or if exception is made on a bona fide ground other than sex.

Section 35 has been extensively revised in response to the submissions before the committee from such groups as the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, the Ontario Nurses' Association and other groups concerned with the right to sick leave benefits during the period before beginning a pregnancy leave. Those benefits are now clearly protected by the addition of an explicit subsection prohibiting denial of sick benefits during leaves taken or required to be taken under section 35.

We have also drafted a complementary revision to regulation 282(8)(c), which will be sent to the regulations committee of cabinet as soon as the bill is passed and receives royal assent. The revision is being circulated with the proposed amendments to Bill 141 so members can consider it in the context of section 35 and so we will all have complete information before us.

5 p.m.

The amendments to section 35 also clearly state that any medical leaves taken by the employee or that the employer requires to be taken before the intended commencement of the 17-week pregnancy leave or the six-week postnatal leave will not affect or shorten these statutory leaves.

In other words, we have taken steps to clarify for all those who voiced this concern before the committee that we do not see the pregnancy leave provision having any impact, nor is it intended to have any impact, on the regular sick leave benefits arrangement that may exist between the employer and the employee.

Both employer and employee groups asked for the clarification of the intent of subsection 38(1), regarding reinstatement at current wage rates, and of subsection 38(3), regarding accrual of service credits during pregnancy or adoption leave.

The amendments to both subsections make the intent very clear. Reinstatement will be at the current wage that applies or would apply to the job held prior to taking pregnancy or adoption leave. We have clarified this. The wage the employee will be reinstated at is the wage at the time the employee returns, not the wage at the time the employee's leave commenced. Service credits will accrue only for purposes of eligibility for benefit programs or statutory benefits.

The final amendment is a new subsection, subsection 38(6), which I hope all members have seen. Under this subsection, anyone already on pregnancy or adoption leave at the time the amendments come into force will be included.

I am sure the details of these amendments will become clear during the clause-by-clause analysis. At this point, it just remains for me, on behalf of the minister and the government, to thank all those groups and individuals who appeared before the committee in January for their very valuable contribution in helping us to clarify both the intent and the ramifications of Bill 141.

Having said that, I look forward very much to the contribution to the debate and suggestions by all members as we proceed through the clause-by-clause consideration of this bill.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to participate on behalf of the Ontario Liberal caucus in the clause-by-clause deliberations on Bill 141. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend the hearings for one week.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I would like to move an amendment to the bill at this time.

The Deputy Chairman: We will have an introductory statement from each of the three parties, and then we will proceed with the amendments. It seems to be a little bit important that people have opening statements.

Mr. Mancini: I want to inform the House that I have only a few comments to make, then I will advise the House of the amendments we have.

I sympathize with my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), but his party has the least number of seats in the Legislature and under our rules and traditions, unfortunately, has the last opportunity to make statements and amendments. He and others will have to wait, as is our tradition.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You really know how to put them in their place.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: The member has the floor, and he is speaking to Bill 141.

Mr. Mancini: As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted, I attended the hearings for a week and heard some excellent briefs from people on both sides of this issue. Prior to the week I attended, the committee that was deliberating Bill 141 had many weeks of hearings.

At this time, I want to thank my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), who spent many weeks on the committee hearing briefs on Bill 141, for helping me with the amendments. As usual, he has been of considerable help in these matters. As you know, Mr. Chairman, he has the responsibility for watching the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch).

I want to say to the parliamentary assistant that we understand he has been kidded on occasion about the extra \$8,000 a year he earns as a parliamentary assistant and about the fact that he has the use of government's pool of automobiles.

Mr. Breaugh: Would you say he is lining his pockets?

Mr. Mancini: I was just going to get to that. I have to agree with the member for Oshawa; I believe the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is lining his pockets, and he is not even working overtime.

Mr. Gillies: Do I have to respond to that?

The Deputy Chairman: I do not know what that has to do with the bill. Because the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) said it with such a smile on his face, I do not see it as having any impact on what we are really talking about.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: We have much to do. If the member has any further remarks on Bill 141, we will be pleased to hear them.

Mr. Mancini: I was only trying to bring out relevant debates that have occurred over the past few weeks here.

The Deputy Chairman: You are bringing out more than relevant debates.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I want to assure you I will not get into a debate about eagles and turkeys or anything of that nature.

The amendments that have been put forward by the government are mainly of a housekeeping nature, except the amendments shown in section 6 of the bill, subsection 38(3) of the act. We feel the government has changed its original position somewhat in that clause. I do not believe we will

find ourselves in favour of what the government has done there. We also have difficulty with section 6 of the bill, subsection 38(5) of the act. We feel the government has watered down its position, and I do not think it can count on us for support.

I have also received a copy of the amendment that is being proposed by the New Democratic Party. Basically, that amendment fills a page and a half—

Mr. Breaugh: Did you count that?

Mr. Mancini: Yes. Basically, that amendment fills a page and a half, and it speaks right to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. That is exactly what this party is concerned with. While the NDP has gone to great length to explain its position, it could have been explained in five words or less. The NDP has put in place what could be done by regulation or what we would expect to be done by regulation. I do not think it is absolutely necessary in any bill to explain how a principle is going to work. I think it is the responsibility of the government to ensure—

Mr. Breaugh: You will tell them later, will you?

Mr. Mancini: If the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is accepted by the whole House and is passed somehow in Bill 141, then we do not need to explain to the government that it has to hire employment standards officers or how to assess this—

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I bring to your attention that it took a page and a half to explain what could be explained in five words.

Mr. Swart: It is like the bill you introduced to cut down on the verbiage.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: I am sorry the member did not see fit to support that.

At this time, I would like to make an amendment. As I understand it, the parliamentary assistant has a copy of the amendments. I understand the table has a copy of the amendments. A copy of the amendments has been sent to the New Democratic Party, and I am sure they have them at hand.

I would move—

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Not five minutes ago the chair ruled that we were on opening remarks and that we were not yet accepting amendments. This party has not

yet made its opening remarks. I ask the chair to please rule that the opening remarks now pass to this caucus.

The Deputy Chairman: No. Although the honourable member tried to make an amendment, I said we were going the rounds. I said we would allow an opening remark by the member for Brantford, an opening remark from each of the opposition parties, and then we would consider the amendments as they come.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Surely, Mr. Chairman, my colleague can indicate which amendments he is going to put on the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: I think he could give the intent of where he is going. He is not trying to move them right now, is he?

Mr. Haggerty: He is just going to tell you what they are.

Mr. Breaugh: He was going to move them 30 seconds ago.

The Deputy Chairman: I think it would be very helpful if the member indicated the general direction he is going to take. Then we would all know. I would just ask the member, on the basis of the general consensus I have found, to indicate where he is going. I will allow the member for Hamilton East—

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, in fairness to the honourable member—

The Deputy Chairman: What is the member standing up for? Is this a point of order?

Mr. Gillies: In my opening remarks I outlined the amendments the ministry would be proposing; so I cannot imagine why the member for Essex South would not be able to do the same.

The Deputy Chairman: That is what I am trying to let him do.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, when we are doing clause-by-clause I can make a short statement before I move my first amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: If you are ready to start your amendments, I will defer for a moment to the member for Hamilton East; then we will come back and start the amendments to the bill. Did the member for Hamilton East want to make an opening remark?

Mr. Mancini: I guess this is a new procedure.

The Deputy Chairman: No, it is not. It is just that I got caught with this one.

The member for Hamilton East might want to—

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, just so I understand you correctly, have you now taken the position that this short period is going to be

used for opening statements and not for amendments?

The Deputy Chairman: Because the first statement seemed to be of an opening nature, indicating amendments that would be coming, I felt there would probably be a consensus favouring this. I was considering the amount of work that has gone into this bill before. I thought we could get into the detailed statements later. I did not ask for a consensus, but I felt it was there. Maybe I misread members in the House.

Mr. Mancini: Fine. That is not—

The Deputy Chairman: I recognize the member for Hamilton East if he—

Mr. Mancini: I am not quite finished, Mr. Chairman, if that is the case.

The Deputy Chairman: Fine.

Mr. Breagh: One of these years you will learn how to play this sport.

Mr. Mancini: No. That is not how clause-by-clause is done. As a former chairman of the standing committee on procedural affairs, the member should know that.

Mr. Breagh: Oh, should I? Thanks for the lecture.

Mr. Mancini: Especially since we sent the member to England twice to study procedure.

Mr. Breagh: “We” sent? “We”?

Mr. Bradley: We, the taxpayers.

The Deputy Chairman: Will the member for Essex South please continue his remarks.

Mr. Mancini: I want to put the House on notice, if that is the case, that I will be moving, when Mr. Chairman deems it appropriate, an amendment to subsection 33(1). The amendment will ask that the words in subsection 33(1), paragraph 1, “substantially the same kind,” be struck out from the bill.

I will move later, under section 6, that subsection 38(3) be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“While an employee is on leave under this part, the employee’s service-related credits and benefits, including employer contributions or payments to a pension fund or plan or a fund or plan that provides for service-related benefits for an employee, and including the determination of all entitlements under this act based on length of service, shall continue to accrue during the leave for all purposes.”

Then I am going to move further under section 6 that the government amendment be amended by striking out subsection 38(5) of the act, as set out in the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I put you and the House on notice of those three amendments, which will be moved.

The Deputy Chairman: I would just make a comment to the member. I was not trying to set any precedent at all. I just hoped this was the way people wanted to begin; then we can proceed with the amendments being moved.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I see no point in an opening statement. We should get to the meat of it, and I would like to move an amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Do you have the amendment—

Mr. Mackenzie: The amendment is before us. I would like to read it if I can.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I thought in the back of my mind that this game-playing was going to lead to this type of posture.

I represent the official opposition in the Ontario Legislature. Under the traditions and the rules of this House when amendments are to be placed, the chair looks to the official opposition first. If we are now prepared to undertake and listen to amendments, I put the chair on notice that I have an amendment to put forward.

The Deputy Chairman: So that we can expedite the business of the House, I now have before me the proposed amendments being made by the member from the Liberal Party and the proposed amendment from the third party. If I am to believe what is going to happen, the amendment that is coming from the member for Hamilton East will be a rather all-inclusive amendment to—

Mr. Wrye: Well, that is nice.

Interjection.

The Deputy Chairman: No, just let me point this out, because to me there is a way of handling business. His first amendment, if I assume correctly, is going to affect subsection 33(1) all-inclusively. When that is dealt with, it would make sense to deal item by item within that—

Mr. Wrye: No, it would not make sense.

The Deputy Chairman: Within committee. Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: I have three points of order. I will recognize the member for Essex South and then the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, are you going to deny that when we do clause-by-clause work in the Legislature, the official opposition is

looked to before the third party when amendments are placed?

The Deputy Chairman: No, that is not what I was saying.

Mr. Mancini: Then if that is not the case, then I again put you on notice that the official opposition has amendments to put forward.

The Deputy Chairman: I hear that, and I have a feeling of where they are going to be. What the House normally does is to begin and take it section by section, the first section first and the first points within that section. When there is an all-inclusive motion that affects that first section, it can be dealt with unamended, and then we can deal with yours seriatim.

I have a few points of order.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: With respect, I gather you called the bill and you had some opening remarks; you have not yet called clause by clause. I suggest that when you come to clause-by-clause discussion, you call section 1; then, as I believe the member for Essex South indicated, it is normal to go first to the government member and then proceed in rotation.

When you call the first section in the bill, it is up to whoever rises first to be recognized first and to place that amendment to section 1 of the bill. But until you call clause by clause, with respect, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that you can take no amendments.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I just want to say very briefly that I think you are dead on. I heard you say you would entertain opening remarks, which traditionally means here that if we want to say a few things before we proceed with the clause-by-clause debate, we can do that; we were quite in agreement with that. It just happens that the member for Hamilton East decided not to do that. It seems to me the next order of business then is to proceed with clause by clause.

I think you are quite right. We are all aware of who is moving which amendments and where. The normal course of procedure here would be to take them as they come in the bill. I think he has a right to put his amendment now and you will then call the section. I think you have been notified by the Liberals and by the parliamentary assistant that there will be other amendments put and that we will simply proceed on that basis. We start at section 1 and we go through the bill. It is pretty straightforward.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I want to put you on notice—

The Deputy Chairman: You do not put the Chairman on notice. The chair is trying to do a job to expedite this. What you are trying to do is give the chair advice or something, but you do not put me on notice.

Mr. Mancini: I cannot put you on notice?

The Deputy Chairman: No, you cannot.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I am somewhat aware of the amendments that are going to be moved to section 1 of the bill. It seems to me there are three amendments. There is one from the government. That amendment should be put first. There is one from the official opposition. If the official opposition catches your eye, that amendment should be put second. Then there is one from the third party. That should be put third.

Mr. Breagh: No, that is not—

Mr. Wrye: My friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) may wish to disagree and, if so, he can have his point of order in a minute. It seems to me the intent of the amendment we wish to put and the intent of the amendment from the third party are exactly the same, as I understand it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Like blazes they are.

Mr. Wrye: My friend the member for Hamilton East does not think they are. Our legislative counsel may differ with him, but I guess the member has become an expert on that as well.

It seems to me we have some kind of rotation in the procedure around this place and maybe we ought to follow it. I do not know what game-playing is going on to my left, but we are not going to stand by while we, the official opposition, are ignored on this important amendment. We expect to put our amendment first.

The Deputy Chairman: We will take it seriatim.

On section 1:

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to move to subsection 33(1).

The Deputy Chairman: I am starting with section 1 of the bill; then we will move to section 33.

Does the member have an amendment to subsection 33(1) of the act?

Mr. Gillies: Yes.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I think I have an amendment that comes before that.

The Deputy Chairman: I am having a complete breakdown in having the co-operation of the House. I have an amendment to subsection 33(1) of the act under section 1 of the bill. As it would seem the majority of the House wants to proceed with amendments to subsection 33(1), then we will go through them.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, as the member for Essex South indicated, I think all three parties have amendments to section 1. Why do we not go ahead? I do not care what order we go in.

Mr. Mancini: Can I offer the chair some advice? The chair did not want me to use the words "put you on notice." You wanted me to use the word "advice". I would like to offer the chair some advice. It is evident the government, the official opposition and the third party all have amendments to the same section.

Mr. Di Santo: Go in order.

Mr. Mancini: That is exactly what we want to do. We want to go in order.

The government, as has been the tradition, should put its amendment first. We will be glad to stand in line and go second, as has always been the case during clause-by-clause debate. The third party, unfortunately, has to wait. I do not know what kind of games they are trying to play.

The Deputy Chairman: The member from Essex South has to realize there is no intention of playing games. The only desire I have is to expedite the business of the House and serve all members as we process the business of this House in committee.

I am now in the position of having heard all points of order with both ears and with great compassion and understanding. We will proceed through the bill starting at subsection 33(1) of the act, with the first and earliest amendment that can affect that bill I have been given. It comes to me from the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Gillies moves that subsection 33(1) of the act as set out in section 1 of the bill be amended by striking out "his" in the second line.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, very briefly, this is obviously a very minor amendment. It was prima facie evidence of sexist language in the bill, which was pointed out to us during the debate. We are very happy to remove the word. Obviously, there is no intent on the ministry's part to indicate more employers are male than female, or vice versa. Removing that word certainly does not weaken the clause at all; in fact, it strengthens it.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, I move—

The Deputy Chairman: No, there is a motion on the floor. I have not asked for a vote. Things do not carry unless the chair says they carry.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: I have to take a vote. Do you want to speak to it?

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, we support the government's amendment.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I would be very happy to see any sexist language eliminated from the bill. I think it was probably an oversight in the drafting; at least I hope it was. We support the elimination of the word.

Ms. Capps: Mr. Chairman, we will support this amendment in view of the fact that our party first pointed out the discriminatory language. I hope the government takes this as an example of what should be done with all our legislation. Our standing orders, among other parliamentary procedures, should also be brought into line. They continue to contain sexist and antediluvian language.

Interjections.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further amendments to section 1?

Mr. Mancini: The present subsection 33(1) reads: "No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee wages that are less than the wages paid to a male employee, or vice versa, for substantially the same kind of work performed in the same establishment where the work requires...."

Mr. Chairman, you already have a copy of our amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mancini moves that subsection 33(1) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by striking out the words "substantially the same kind of".

Any comments?

Mr. Mackenzie: I have one. I would like to move on.

Mr. Chairman: Does the mover of the motion wish to speak to it?

Mr. Breaugh: On a small point of order, Mr. Chairman: We are into this argument again, but I think the proper way to proceed, if you will hear me out, is to let us put our amendments on the floor of the House. Then the chair will have to make a ruling on the sequence in which we will deal with these amendments.

The previous chairman did make a ruling on that, and I think we are going to have to ask you to do the same thing again. It is my impression that the proper way to proceed now is to get both amendments on the floor. You will make a ruling on how we will deal with them and in what order we will deal with them.

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate the member's comments, and I did hear part of the previous comments. We did start the process by having the parliamentary assistant put the government's amendment, which was carried. We have now gone to the amendment by the critic of the official opposition and we are going to hear the debate on his motion. When we deal with that, we will be coming to other members for their amendments.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: The removal of the words "substantially the same kind of" in line 5 of subsection 33(1) changes the nature of the bill substantially. This change makes the bill a bill for equal pay for work of equal value, something we have talked about a lot in this House.

Some time ago the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) brought forward a resolution espousing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. That principle was endorsed unanimously in the House. We have before us a government bill to change the Employment Standards Act. We thought the government might have come forward with legislation that would put into practice its support of my colleague's bill. However, it did not do that. Therefore, the words "substantially the same kind of" need to be struck from the bill to make this legislation comply with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

It is quite evident why we need this bill. Day after day in the Legislature since we started the session, we have heard many members from all three political parties introduce petitions addressed to the Lieutenant Government in Council which state that women earn only 63 per cent of the average wage of men in our society and that women are forced into what some people term as job ghettos. Unless legislative action is taken, things in the work force will not improve for the female population.

Because of the things I stated earlier—the 63 per cent wage for women as compared to men, the job ghettos—and for a host of other reasons, we need to take legislative action. The elimination of the words I mentioned earlier will give us the opportunity to do that.

I could have taken a page and a half to put this point in a different way, but at the time I did not

believe it was necessary. I still believe that. I ask all members for their support.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I fail to see that the Liberal amendment enshrines in the Employment Standards Act the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, which 25 Liberals voted for when a motion to that effect was before the House. There is no mention of equal pay for work of equal value either in the amendment before us from the government or in the amendment as amended by the Liberal speaker; so we have not implemented the commitment made by all 43 Conservatives and 25 Liberals who voted for it on October 20, 1983.

I consider the amendment completely useless in improving the present legislation. It fails to make clear that equal value is the objective of applying the criteria. It simply enacts the composite criteria and does not make clear that dissimilar jobs can be compared. How are we going to get a comparison between the parking lot attendant and the switchboard operator at Queen's Park if we cannot compare dissimilar jobs? When we simply apply the composite test to the work performed, we are not necessarily going to apply it in the context of looking for equal value.

That is where the amendment is very defective. I think we should reject it out of hand and consider the amendment the member for Hamilton East has indicated he wishes to move. It would be a complete substitution for the government's new part IX, Equal Pay, by his new part IX called, Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to speak in support of this amendment. I am not quite sure whether the members of the New Democratic Party have had a chance to peruse our amendment in depth. It seems to me that if they have, they will understand it. It is a little difficult and unfortunate that the NDP chooses to divide upon party lines on this particular issue. This has been an issue where both opposition parties have attempted to put the argument to the government that we have to allow comparisons between jobs that are not substantially the same within the same establishments.

It is clearly the intent of our amendment to delete "substantially the same kind of," which would leave simply "no person or employer acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate between male and female employees by paying a female employee wages that are less than the wages paid to a male employee, or vice versa, for work performed in the same establish-

ment where the work requires substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility...under similar working conditions."

This is clearly a message to the government that dissimilar jobs within the same establishment can be compared where they are sharing equal value in terms of skill, effort, working conditions and responsibility. The inclusion of "substantially the same kind of" is a clear indication the government is not prepared to move in the direction of equal value. I would be very surprised if the NDP supported the government to defeat this amendment because this amendment quite clearly removes the notion that the comparisons must occur between work that is substantially the same kind of work within the establishment.

Clearly, the reason for the discussions we had last January, the reason for my resolution and for any changes that must be wrought upon the Employment Standards Act to introduce equal value as a reality and not simply as a rhetoric in the Legislature, must include a deletion of the notion of substantially the same kind of work.

I would encourage the NDP to set aside the kind of partisan rhetoric we have heard on this issue for the last number of months and to join us in supporting this amendment, which I think speaks to the very issue raised by women's groups across this province. In its current status without this amendment, if Bill 141 were being propagated by a private enterprise, it could rightfully be convicted of misleading advertising.

Notwithstanding any of the statements made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in this House last week, notwithstanding any of the presentations made to the Ontario Federation of Labour on this issue last week, and notwithstanding the support given by the members on the government side of the House to my resolution of last October 20, Bill 141 in its current form does absolutely nothing to include the concept of equal value unless it is accompanied by this amendment.

This amendment is critical to the essence of the question. I would urge members on all sides of the House who supported the original resolution to come forth today and to put the money of the women of Ontario where the mouth of the politicians has been for the last six months.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I must at the outset express disappointment, consternation and some degree of shock that my friends to the left have decided they are not going to support this amendment.

5:40 p.m.

I suppose we could have written it in stone to satisfy them, but I cannot for the life of me understand why my friends on the left, who have consistently indicated they support equal value legislation, would not support an amendment which would do just that.

I would simply urge them to reconsider, but suggest that if they do not wish to that will be fine. They can explain to the women of Ontario why playing politics in this place is somehow more important than putting the money that is so desperately needed into the pockets of those women.

Last October, I was in my place when the private member's resolution of the member for Hamilton Centre was brought forward in this House. As the members know, my parliamentary colleagues asked for a recorded vote on that issue. Members from this party and members from the party to my left all voted in favour of a motion to enshrine, not to talk about, but to enshrine the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act.

Every one of us understood what we were doing last October. We were not talking about talking some more; we were talking about enshrining. About two weeks later, lo and behold, Bill 141 appeared. Every member of the government who voted for that resolution should be voting for this amendment, because that is what this amendment does. It enshrines equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act.

The government members cannot have it one way with the galleries full in October, then when the galleries are empty today very quietly stab the women of Ontario in the back once again, because that is what they are doing.

I want to remind the members of an issue and example that my colleague raised last October and the leader of the third party came back to last week. It is the story of Canadian Fabricated Products of Stratford and the women who work there. Women make up 82 per cent of the work force there. They do the sewing for seat covers, using heavy industrial machines. That work demands a very special kind of skill and is also demanding in terms of the insistence on the responsibility to put out a good product. Obviously, because of the heavy machines, it demands a great deal of effort. As anyone who has ever worked in an industrial shop would know, the working conditions are probably not exactly as generous as those in this place.

I think it is fair to argue that the sweepers in that same plant, those who clean up after those women, have the same kind of working conditions. They must put out a great effort but, I think it is fair to suggest, have to exhibit somewhat less skill and bear somewhat lesser responsibility. They earn 24 cents an hour more than those women.

Where in this amended bill, this composite test, is there anything that will bring those women up to the kind of pay the men enjoy? It is not there, but it is present if we delete just five words. With those five words, we can take an important step, not the only step, but an important step towards reducing in a very important way the wage gap the women of Ontario now face, a wage gap that is 37 cents on the dollar, with all the attendant spinoff effects that wage gap holds.

When we talk about the spinoff effect, we should all remember our pensions and how they go up as our wages go up. If a woman is earning 63 cents to the dollar earned by a man, then her pension is not nearly as generous. That is what we have been talking about for the last while—how desperate the plight of many women is as they reach their retirement years.

Where have we dealt with that issue in this bill? Nowhere. We have done nothing. We have apparently concluded, after careful deliberation, that it is all right to fight the economic recession we have all gone through on the backs of the working women of Ontario.

I and my colleagues in this party find that absolutely unacceptable. The parliamentary assistant and the Minister of Labour should stand in their places and tell us why this amendment is not workable. They should say why it would cause chaos in the marketplace, why it would be destructive and why it is not preferable to the so-called composite test. We creep forward under that, but only at a snail's pace.

I hope members on all sides of this House will remember what they did in October and on this first day of May will do the same thing and vote for equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak briefly on the amendment.

In October we passed a resolution that addressed the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. I think that principle is important because it changed the thinking of this House. We wanted to remedy a situation that has been developing for many years, one for which both the government and the private sector are responsible. In this legislation, we are trying to

redress a situation that is rooted in the economic life of this province and for which both the private and the public sector have equal responsibility.

In order to redress that situation, we need legislation that does not allow the government and the private sector to do in future what they have been doing in the past in interpreting the Employment Standards Act. For that reason, we think the Liberal amendment is inadequate because it does not tie down—

Mr. Mancini: That is fine. Vote against it.

Mr. Di Santo: The member for Essex South wants to contribute to the discussion, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, the member for Downsview has the floor. The member for Essex South is going to butt out.

Mr. Wrye: Give him some help, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Di Santo: We are trying to help the Liberal caucus by proposing an amendment that will tie down the act and will leave very little room for interpretation by the government. The Liberal caucus thinks motherhood will solve the problem. That is why we think their amendment is inadequate.

Ms. Copps: No, this is a non-sexist caucus. You mean fatherhood.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Di Santo: Fatherhood or whatever.

The Liberals like to say fatherhood or motherhood, but they do not solve the problems of women workers. They will leave the job of interpretation with the government and two years from now we will be in exactly the same situation as we are now. However, if they pay attention to our amendment, they will probably come to the conclusion that it is necessary to have very tough legislation. This is what is required if we are to remedy a situation everybody deprecates but which they, in fact, are perpetuating with their amendment.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, in the spirit of brotherhood and conciliation here, I want to make it very clear that I have no difficulty at all with the Liberal amendment as moved.

What I do have difficulty with is the fact they would move it, thinking or trying to convince this House that it would resolve the problems we have. I was intrigued at the comment of the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) that the government had brought in an amendment that did absolutely nothing to deal with the problem and then say that removing those five

words substantially—and it does take out “substantially” in the one section—would resolve the problem. It is about as effective as another amendment the government moved to take out the word “his”—a little bit of sexism and probably an oversight when it was done.

The amendment moved by the party on my right does not deal with the very principle we voted for in this House. It does absolutely nothing to provide a mechanism for how it can be handled and how it can be done, how we are finally going to bring about equal pay for work of equal value.

I guess that is the difficulty. I do not know how much consulting the Liberal Party did. We could not find a single member of the coalition who thought that was anywhere near an adequate answer. Indeed, some of them were a lot tougher than that in their comments. I think it also points out why we tried—I guess there is a game of politics at all times in this House—to put ours initially because it dealt with the heart and principle of the matter and with the entire section. That is where the battle should be. That is what we will do once we have this one out of the way, whichever way it goes.

Certainly I have no difficulty at all with that particular amendment. It is just that it is a nothing amendment.

Mr. Wrye: Oh, that is nonsense and the member knows it.

Ms. Copps: I hope the member votes against it because the women of Ontario should know where he stands.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The parliamentary assistant has the floor.

Mr. Gillies: I would not want, nor is it appropriate at this time during the clause-by-clause debate, to restate all of the arguments that have been made in what has been a very protracted debate in this House on the question of equal pay for work of equal value.

I do think it important to restate at this time that the government accepts and supports the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. This has been stated by the Premier, by my minister and by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, but I think it very important that members note the dilemma with which the government is faced. There is not even a consensus among the opposition members of this House as to how to practically bring this about. One can hardly expect the government to move into a proposition over which there is no consensus among the opposition members in the House.

In Bill 141, we have brought in some measures which we feel will improve the position of working women in this province. I would suggest there is no more concern on either side of the House than the other about the plight of working women, but we saw and heard the evidence during the committee considerations. Expert evidence would suggest the bulk of the wage gap could not be cured by an equal-value law. The bulk of the wage gap is caused by the fact women are not competing in equivalent types of work with men, women have lower levels of education and training, they are more likely to be working part-time as opposed to full-time and all of these things.

With the greatest of regret, I cannot accept the argument of the member for Windsor-Sandwich that to remove five words from our bill would close a wage gap of 37 per cent. I do not believe it and I have seen no evidence that would be the case.

We feel what we are doing moves in the right direction, recognizing that an equal value law would not close the wage gap. We feel we are moving in the right direction and in a direction we hope will not cause undue disruption in the labour market.

We also have to look at the experience in Canadian jurisdictions that have brought in such a bill. Again—

Mr. Mackenzie: Like all those workers lining their pockets with overtime.

Mr. Gillies: The member for Hamilton East can dredge up all the interjections he wants. If he wants to bring up that one, I could bring up a few comments his leader has made that I am sure would embarrass every member of the third party present, but I will not.

The point is we have very little valuable experience to draw upon in this area in Canada. In the province of Quebec, which brought in an equal value law, the complaints that have arisen thus far could have been adjudicated just as well by an equal pay law. No new ground to speak of has been broken in Quebec.

In the federal jurisdiction, we know of the general service workers' case in which an adjustment was made that affected a large number of workers, but it was settled by agreement. It was not settled by adjudication under the federal law that covers its own employees.

Beyond that, there is concern about moving to an equal value law without due consideration of the effects it can have on our jurisdiction. There is concern it could raise levels of unemployment.

It could worsen the situation for working women in our province.

I feel quite confident in restating our support for the principle. Based on the arguments we have heard from the members opposite, I do not think there is any way our support for the proposition put forward by the member for Hamilton Centre can be equated with a call for support for this amendment. I do not think they are equivalent, I do not think they are the same thing, and I reluctantly have to indicate that the ministry is not prepared to support the Liberal amendment.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago it appeared as if the New Democratic Party was not going to support the Liberal amendment, but then after having taken five or 10 minutes, and after having the input of the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) and maybe one or two other members, it realized that the amendment placed by me earlier, the amendment that was placed by this party earlier, does exactly what we said it would do; it provides for equal pay for work of equal value for the women of Ontario.

I noted in the reply we received from the parliamentary assistant to the minister that he believes equal pay for work of equal value would cause disruption in the economy and the work place. I wonder if the parliamentary assistant

would take a few moments later on during this debate to discuss how this disruption would occur, how it would affect the economy, and how it would affect the work place.

I believe paying people the same wages for work of equal value is exactly what we expect. I know, as I look across the floor, that the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) is paid the same salary as the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt). If we were to accept the logic put forward by the parliamentary assistant, the Minister of Education would have to reduce her salary so it was approximately 63 per cent of the salary of the Minister of the Environment.

It being six o'clock, shall I move the adjournment?

Mr. Chairman: Not quite yet.

Mr. Mancini: It is not quite six o'clock. Fine; I was getting signals from the government whip.

Mr. Chairman: He was probably wondering whether there is an agreement to defer the votes until later and that type of thing.

Mr. Mancini: I want to say that when we return at eight o'clock, I will have more comments. Would it be appropriate now to move the adjournment?

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

The House resumed at 8:01 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourned at 6 p.m. for dinner, we were discussing the amendment placed earlier this afternoon. We had heard comments from the New Democratic Party that our amendment did not go far enough. They did not understand it and they were not quite sure what to make of it. But later on it appeared from their comments that they had come around full circle and might even vote for our amendment. We would accept their support and that they finally understand the amendment. They should realize, as should the government, that the amendment would bring in equal pay for work of equal value.

That is what the discussion here this evening is going to centre on: the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), was in the committee several weeks more than I had the opportunity to be—

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, the member should be speaking to the amendment.

Mr. Wrye: He is speaking to it.

Mr. Boudria: And an excellent speech it is.

Mr. Mancini: I agree that we are speaking to the amendment. I want to make it absolutely clear what the amendment is and what it does. Then when we have the vote on the amendment, members will know exactly what they are doing. I am sure the New Democratic Party will have to caucus several more times before they make up their minds exactly what they are going to do.

Mr. Charlton: You are a joke, Remo. You do not understand your own amendment.

Mr. Mancini: The member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) will have an opportunity later on to express his views on the amendment.

Mr. Wrye: Maybe he could explain it.

Mr. Mancini: Yes; maybe he could explain it.

Mr. Charlton: Where are your comments on our amendment?

Mr. Chairman: The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) has the floor.

Mr. Mancini: The amendment we put forward will then force us to focus on the debate and centre our thoughts on the matter of equal pay for work of equal value. As I was saying, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour sat on the committee for many more weeks than I and he heard the many very valid reasons as to why we need such legislation.

Before we adjourned, the members will recall I brought up the matter of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) receiving the same salary as the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt). If we were to accept the logic of the government, the salary of the Minister of Education would have to be reduced to 63 per cent of what her male cabinet colleagues receive. I dare say the women here who are not in the cabinet also would have to have their salaries reduced to 63 per cent of whatever the male members receive.

I made those remarks in reference and in rebuttal to the statements made by the parliamentary assistant when he said equal pay for work of equal value would create chaos in the marketplace.

Mr. Gillies: That is not quite what I said.

Mr. Wrye: Pretty close.

Mr. Mancini: Not quite, but I am trying to paraphrase what the parliamentary assistant said. I believe the word was "disruption." He said it would create disruption in the marketplace, in the work force and in the economy.

I for one do not understand, and I want it explained to me, why there is disruption. Why is the economy affected when you are paying a fair wage to an individual to do a particular job? Why does that cause disruption in the marketplace or in the economy?

As far as I know, in areas of work where there is already equal pay for work of equal value there has been no disruption to the work place or to the economy. When members of the teaching profession all across this province sign collective

agreements with their school boards, there is not an agreement for the male teachers and a separate agreement for the female teachers; in the colleges and universities there are no separate agreements. In other areas of work where progressive employers realize a person should be paid for the job he or she is doing, we have not seen the disruption that the parliamentary assistant has talked about either to the work place or to the economy.

I ask the parliamentary assistant again, when he has his opportunity to respond and to make comments on the amendment, if he will please give us specific examples of his particular concern.

Getting to the matter of whether our amendment is sound enough, I say to the members that anyone who reads subsection 33(1) the way we have amended it and anyone who does not want to be partisan for his own reasons will conclude that the amendment we have made to subsection 33(1) does indeed install the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in this legislation.

I close by saying that some of my other colleagues will be rising soon and putting forward their comments. But we have no hesitation in making public the amendment we have made this evening, and we are looking forward to sending our amendments and the debates that are taking place tonight to every women's group in Ontario and to everyone else who is interested in what is happening here.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Wrye: Now we are going to get an explanation. Now we are going to find out why you are voting against it.

Mr. Swart: Yes, they will. The previous speaker, the member for Essex South, made a comment and I wrote it down. He said we do not know what we are doing over here. We know exactly what we are doing; that is why we are going to vote against this amendment and substitute our own in its place.

In the nine minutes in which he spoke since the dinner hour the member for Essex South used the phrase "equal pay for work of equal value" at least half a dozen times. That is what we have in our amendment. That phrase has come to mean something; it has come to mean something to the women of this province.

I suggest it is no accident that those words are not in the amendment put forward by the Liberal Party members. What they are trying to do is weasel on this. They know very well what the words "equal pay for work of equal value" mean,

yet they leave in the clauses that state equal pay shall apply where the work requires "substantially the same skill, effort," etc. and is "substantially equivalent." If they leave those kinds of qualifications in there—

Mr. Wrye: They are not qualifications.

Mr. Swart: They are qualifications. The Liberal members do not want equal pay for work of equal value embodied in legislation. That is what they are saying to the women of this province. That is what they are saying to this Legislature. It does not matter if they get up and try to pretend that is what is in there; it is not in there.

We have seen all kinds of legislation passed in this House where the wording is not specific when principles are stated. We know what happens to it. Even the Liberal Party is not happy with the application of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. At least I think I am right in saying that. My goodness, that sets out principles which have tougher statements in them than the amendment they propose here. Yet the government was able to get around that and will get around this. It has no meaning.

If they want to have equal pay for work of equal value, they have to say that. They have to lay out the specifics for enforcement. This is what our amendment does, and the Liberal Party amendment does not do it. I suggest to the party on my right—far to the right, both philosophically and in direction—that its wording is deliberate. It is a compromise within their caucus so they can attempt to serve both factions within their caucus. They have come up with something that will be meaningless when it comes to enforcement.

We in this party cannot go along with the equivocating phraseology they have in their amendment. We want to mean what we say and to say what we mean. Our amendment does that; their amendment does not. We are voting against theirs and voting for our resolution, an amendment that has some meaning.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about a couple of things, but first I will deal with my friends on the left; that should not take long. Then I want to talk about some of the comments made by the parliamentary assistant to the minister.

I want to congratulate my friend the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), because he at least has the courage, although he is wrong, to outline the problem our friends on the left supposedly have. I suppose the real problem they have is that our amendment is not written on New

Democratic Party paper. That is basically the problem. If there is a second problem, it is that the amendment the Liberals proposed is the amendment that came first.

I want to deal with some of the comments made by my friend the member for Welland-Thorold for a very important reason. I want to congratulate the New Democratic Party, ever the party that would stoop low enough to play politics on an issue that is crucial to the women of Ontario. They have managed to give the government an out. My friend the parliamentary assistant stands in his place, holier than thou, and says, "The opposition cannot agree, so we cannot do it." Thanks a lot to the NDP. Frankly, we will vote for their amendment, and then he will lose at least one excuse.

Let me deal with the substantive part of an amendment I have seen but have not heard. I may hear it a little later tonight. I did see it in November 1983. Even if my friends on the left do not understand, I know you will, Mr. Chairman. The substantive part of their amendment to section 33 is in subsection 33(3). Correct me if I am wrong, but I see their amendment as being very like ours.

Their amendment says, "In assessing the value of work performed by employees employed in the same establishment, the criterion to be applied is the composite of the skill, effort and responsibility required in the performance of the work and the conditions under which the work is performed."

Our amendment to subsection 33(1) says, "No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee wages that are less than the wages paid to a male employee, or vice versa, for work"—not "substantially the same kind of work"—"performed in the same establishment, where the work requires substantially equivalent or greater skill, effort, responsibility under similar working conditions when the skill, effort, responsibility and the working conditions are considered as a whole and not individually."

In essence, the amendments say exactly the same thing. The New Democrats want to write in the word "value," because someone said it was important that they write it in. Obviously they have not checked with any legislative counsel, because it is not crucial at all. This amendment takes out the crucial, qualifying words that make this the composite test, that is, "substantially the same kind of work." We have not qualified the work. We have allowed any kind of work being

undertaken in the same establishment to qualify under the equal pay laws.

I do not want to completely defuse the arguments of my friends on the left. I will agree there are some phrases in their amendments that I can support. They try to define "establishment." They try to set up a mechanism for complaints, although I understand a mechanism is already there. As usual, my friends on the left wish to completely rewrite the world.

I want to put it on the record that the members on my left have done a disservice to the women of Ontario. They have suggested that in some way, to use the words of the member for Welland-Thorold, we are weaseling. We are doing no such thing. It is too bad they have lost the leadership on this issue to our party and particularly to my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps). Now they are trying to get back.

No matter how they rail about how their fellow party supporters in the Equal Pay Coalition told them—and I am sure they told them after careful study, because they did not see our amendments until 4:30—no matter how much weaseling of their own they do about how our amendments are really not "equal pay for work of equal value," it is indeed equal legislation. I am sure the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) could set them straight on that.

I would be extremely disappointed if the New Democratic Party were to vote against this amendment. Not only would I be disappointed, but I think it is something the women of Ontario should be reminded of as well. When their paycheques are the bottom line, the NDP members cannot rise above petty politics long enough to support the women of Ontario.

8:20 p.m.

We will support their amendment. I have not reviewed it carefully word for word, but we will support it because the principle of the NDP amendment is just as important as the principle of our amendment. The members of the third party should remember that. It is principles we are supposed to be dealing with in this Legislature, not on whose paper the amendments are written.

I want to deal a little more with the comments of my friend the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour. I would hope some of my colleagues might find interesting the comments he made in regard to the disruption in the economic marketplace that he claimed would be caused by this horrendous decision of actually saying to the women of Ontario, "Enough is enough; we are going to support you."

The parliamentary assistant raised the issue that equal value legislation would not close the 37 per cent wage gap. I agree with him. It will not close it entirely. I want to read something into the record in this important debate as this is our last opportunity in this parliament. If our friends across the way by mischance and misfortune are re-elected—and I do not think they will be; if they want to go to the polls in June, 46-40, let us go in June.

Mr. Riddell: Right on.

Mr. Wrye: One out of four at least.

I want to remind my friend the member for Brantford of this and challenge him on it. I want to use a little study prepared for the Ministry of Labour in February 1982 by a professor by the name of Morley Gunderson from the University of Toronto. I am sure my friend is well aware of the study. It is called *The Male-Female Earnings Gap in Ontario: A Summary*.

Mr. Gunderson makes it very clear in that study, and I would certainly agree with his conclusion, that equal value legislation will not close entirely, or even by 50 per cent, the wage gap that now exists in Ontario. Of course, what this will do, and the member for Brantford knows it, is absolutely nothing. It will not close the wage gap one per cent, and he knows it.

Let me put on the record what Mr. Gunderson said. He was speaking about equal pay for equal work. He said: "Throughout the paper, equal pay for equal work legislation was not portrayed as a powerful and important policy option." That is what we still have. We have equal pay for equal work. We do not have anything but that. We have a composite test that widens equal pay for equal work, but that is all we have.

He said: "Given the small magnitude of narrowly defined wage discrimination, its potential is limited. This rather negative portrayal of equal pay legislation, however, should be qualified. It may have a substantial indirect impact by changing the attitudes of employers and employees and may alter the relative position of the parties within households. Given these qualifications, perhaps the most balanced statement that can be made is that equal pay cannot be relied upon as the main policy option."

In this popgun arsenal of weapons that the ministry has, what we have before us tonight is the main and only policy option that this ministry has offered to close the disgraceful wage gap.

Mr. Gunderson went on to say: "The results of this study shed some light on the efficacy of the controversial legislation for equal pay for work of equal value. First, by broadening the scope of

comparison across occupations, it opens up the possibility of reducing the discrimination that results from occupational segregation"—I hope the parliamentary assistant is taking notes so he can tell us how the composite test does all this—"which was shown to be larger than the narrowly defined wage discrimination that is the purview of legislation on equal pay for equal work."

To explain this to the member for Brantford and to the government members—and I would like him to respond to this—what happens is that equal value in and of itself is not the only springboard to narrowing the wage gap. What happens—and I think he should talk a bit about this—is there is a spinoff effect of equal value legislation in narrowing the job ghettos, the employment segregation we have here at Queen's Park right within the Ontario civil service. I really think, and I always have, that this is probably one of the greatest impacts of bringing in equal value legislation.

Then Professor Gunderson went on to say, "Second, to the extent that it is accompanied by job evaluation techniques to assess equal value, it may reduce the gap indirectly because the gap tends to be smaller in jobs with evaluation schemes." I heard my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) agreeing. I am sure those of us who sat on the committee and had the opportunity to hear about job evaluation and the impact it can have know this certainly will happen, but it will not happen with the simple little composite test.

Professor Gunderson added: "In addition, given the importance of differences in productivity-related factors—notably, the different facets of experience—legislating equal pay for work of equal value cannot directly reduce discrimination in the acquisition of these factors. Equal value legislation, like any legislative intervention in the labour market, will also have its own obvious costs.

"In summary, its potential is clearly broader than conventional equal pay legislation"—and that is what is before us—"but it will have its own associated problems and it cannot hope to completely close the discriminatory gap."

There is no argument at all with that on this side.

The parliamentary assistant knows that right in the next paragraph our friend Professor Gunderson referred—and this is the referral that has been popularized in these debates, particularly by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch)—to the phrase "arsenal of weapons." But

he used "arsenal of weapons" in the sense of equal value legislation as an important weapon in that arsenal—not equal pay for equal work but equal pay for work of equal value.

I hope when my friend the member for Brantford next rises in his place he will explain to me how the composite test will begin to end occupational segregation in the marketplace, because it simply will not happen, and he knows it.

I want to remind the House of some information that was provided to those of us who sat on the committee, called comments by Honourable Russell H. Ramsay on certain matters raised in the public hearings of January 9, 10 and 11. One of the many matters the Minister of Labour dealt with—and, again, I want the member for Brantford to comment on this—is number 11. He will find this in his sheaf of notes; it is dated January 23, 1984, and I am sure he can have one of his people in the Ministry of Labour send it to him. It is called Potential Impact of Composite Test and Equal Value. I want to read into the record some of the things the Minister of Labour said to those of us who were on that committee.

"Questions were asked about the numbers of workers who would benefit from the composite as well as from equal value. I am advised that there are limits to how specifically this question can be answered." That, of course, is because it had years and years to start doing some studies and had done none at all.

"To provide a perspective, I should note that from March 1980 to November 1983 through the enhanced enforcement program"—that means they were actually trying to enforce their law—"of the equal pay unit of the employment standards branch, 645 investigations were completed, two thirds of which were initiated as a result of employee complaints."

Here is the important statistic that the minister offers to the members of the committee: "Twenty-two per cent of the total employers investigated were found to be in violation." Then he went on and gave some numbers. Of course, because it is over three years, they are pretty large numbers. He talked about how \$1.3 million was repaid.

8:30 p.m.

I hope the member for Brantford will note we are now moving to page 15. This is the crucial paragraph because this is really the crux of what this composite test is going to do. I would remind members that we talked about 22 per cent out of the 645 investigations. About 140 or 150 were found to be in violation. The rest, not because

there was not some discrimination but because our law was so narrow, were not in violation.

Here is the tipoff and the giveaway about what little this composite test will do. The minister wrote, "For part of last year, equal pay officers monitored investigations for instances which, had the composite been applied"—that is what is before us—"a violation would have been found where employers were currently in compliance. As a result of this monitoring, staff identified an increase of violations of at least 10 per cent that would have been found under the composite approach."

He said things really would have been better. Of course, he does not have any proof; he just says it would have been an increase of at least 10 per cent.

Let us just sum up this for the member for Brantford to comment on. We had 645 complaints that were sent for investigation with the employment standards branch. I am sure he will understand, as I do, there are a lot of people who understand equal pay for equal work is a waste of time with respect to equal value legislation. So a lot of those were not even applied for.

Of the 645 that were applied for, some 22 per cent of the employers were found in violation. I am not too quick in mathematics, but that is about 135 or 140 out of 645. Under the legislation we are getting rid of, that means 500 employers were not in violation. Clearly, some of them were not because the complaint would have been thrown out in any event.

What the minister now says—what he put on the record—is that of the 505 cases that were not in violation, had the wonderful composite test been in place, there would have been an additional 10 per cent or an additional 50. That leaves us with 450 cases in which the law will not allow for proper redress. I would venture a guess that in many of those 450 cases at least as many could have been redressed through the composite test.

We have no complaint with the composite test; it just does not go far enough. It does not begin to go far enough. In at least 50 of those cases, the member for Brantford will surely be aware that equal value legislation would have narrowed the gap.

He had some comments to make this afternoon with respect to the economic disruption that would have been caused. I hope the member for Essex South was able to find them.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: While my colleague is looking up his

facts, members should know the score is 1-0 for the New York Islanders in the first period.

Mr. Chairman: The point of order is out of order, but we thank you for the information.

Mr. Wrye: I want to thank the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) because I have found at least one comment from the member for Brantford.

I would like him to explain something else too—I have a lot for him to explain. He said this afternoon, “Further, beyond that, there is concern about moving to an equal value law without due consideration of the effects this can have on our jurisdiction.” That is a lovely comment. Why does the member not find out the effects? The Tories have been the government for 41 years. Would they like the opposition to write the bill for them?

He went on to say “it could raise levels of unemployment.” This is the old scare tactic. Now we are going to have levels of unemployment. Will the member please explain that? It really becomes a little much after a while. He said, “It could worsen the situation for working women in our province.” He should pull out Gunderson. Maybe he will help the member on that.

What we are faced with is a government that says it believes in equal value legislation and a parliamentary assistant who says he believes in equal value legislation. However, he has not stood in his place, the minister has not stood in his place and the Premier (Mr. Davis) has not stood in his place and said one iota about any pilot project or any studies that are under way that will lead to a pilot project or to general legislation.

Those of us on this side are a little sick of hearing the phoney bleatings from over on that side of the House—I do not mean the parliamentary assistant because I would not want to impute motives—about how they are all in favour of equal pay for work of equal value.

I wish just one of them would stand up and say, “I am not.” Why do they not have the courage of their convictions? They do not want it and they have not proposed it. I really wish one of them would stand up and have the courage to say, “We do not want it and that is why we have not brought it in.” At least it would be honest.

Mr. Philip: Why did the Liberals defeat the equal pay bill?

Mr. Wrye: I hear my friend the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip). I guess he was out. Does he want me to read it again?

Mr. Boudria: He is the Etobicoke landlord.

Mr. Mancini: I hear he is a slum landlord.

Mr. Wrye: I would not say that about my friend.

Mr. Philip: That is the kind of stupid sleaze one would expect from a Liberal.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member knows that is not parliamentary language.

Mr. Philip: This sleaze should not—

Mr. Chairman: Constrain yourself. That is not parliamentary and you will be having to withdraw it pretty soon.

Mr. Philip: If he is going to lie, I have a right to correct the record.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the remark “slum landlord.”

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. Wrye: I think we all understand these matters can get a little emotional. I hope my friends to the left will understand that there have been occasions when they have perhaps got carried away. My friend the member for Essex South has—

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: That is why we have Wilkinson.

Mr. Wrye: That is right. That is why we have Wilkinson and we do not just use him in the morning.

Perhaps I should help my friend the member for Etobicoke because he apparently missed it the first time. If he will read our amendment in total and if he will read subsection 3 of the New Democratic Party manifesto, Bill 108, the equal pay part of it, it means the same thing. I am going to vote for it and our party will vote for it.

I suppose that is why the NDP is not very skilled in the law because they have obviously not checked with legislative counsel to find out it is six of one or half a dozen of another. I want the member for Etobicoke to understand. All he has done, and I think the women of Ontario will be really pleased to hear this, is given the government an out.

My friend across the floor stood up this afternoon and said: “You guys are split. Because the Liberal Party has split with the NDP and they cannot get together on this thing, now we do not have to bring it in.” That is fine. I am willing to allow them to use their paper if they will bring in our amendment. I am quite prepared to vote for theirs, but I would have thought they would have voted for ours and then said, “We have something even better.” I might even have agreed with them.

Instead, we are faced as usual, once again and ad nauseam, with the political games our friends on the left play. Then they run off to the working women of Ontario and say: "We could not get it for you. We could not get anything for you." I guess after a while some of us in this party get a little fed up with having to listen to those political games being played.

I see my friend the member for Hamilton East smiling. I know he and I may agree on a lot of things, but after a while some of us find the phoney, self-serving posturing on the left just a little much.

Mr. Mackenzie: It is coming from an expert right now and has been for the last 20 minutes.

Mr. Shymko: Hear, hear.

Mr. Wrye: I see my friend the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) has joined in. I am sure he is going to stand up and admit that he really wants equal value legislation, but he cannot figure out how to do it.

Mr. Shymko: I said it in my first campaign literature.

Mr. Wrye: I am sure the member for Brantford will want to haul him down.

Mr. Shymko: I said it in 1981.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: Of course, they all say it. He is going to say it in 1984 and 1985 and he does not believe it today any more than he believed it then. Let us not be so—

Mr. Shymko: You did not even mention it in your campaign literature in 1981.

Mr. Wrye: Does the member want to check my campaign literature?

Mr. Shymko: That is right. Give me a copy.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Windsor-Sandwich has the floor. Carry on with the debate on the amendment.

Mr. Wrye: I will be very interested to hear the response from my friend the member for Brantford and I am sure he will want to give me a detailed response. I think the working women of this province would be somewhat disappointed with those of us in the opposition if we allowed this travesty to go sailing through this House. I look forward to hearing a detailed response from him on the points I have raised because I think they are important. Should he not want to make a detailed response, perhaps I will raise them with him again.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, if I might just take a moment or two, I would be very pleased to respond to the points raised by the member for

Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), only I am not quite sure which ones. Perhaps he could give me some guidance on which set of points I should respond to—his position before dinner, which was that the introduction of equal value legislation would close the wage gap by 37 per cent, or the post-dinner admission that it would do nothing of the kind. It would close the wage gap perhaps, as Professor Gunderson suggested, by something over five percentage points.

In my comments before dinner I was responding to his earlier comments because, in terms of unfairly raising unreasonable expectations, I thought a disservice was being done to any working women in this province who would read those remarks. I find it much easier to agree with my friend's latter remarks, those we have just heard. I have examined Professor Gunderson's study, and we can look for a few moments at the points he raised about the closing of the wage gap.

In 1981 the average wage of a male in Ontario was \$23,305. For a female, it was 63 per cent of that, \$14,682. The professor's study indicates that, at the most, legislation of the type we contemplate or even of the type my friends opposite contemplate through amendment would close that gap by between five and 10 per cent. I have to disagree with my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich. We feel what we are doing with Bill 141 will close the wage gap. He made the comment that it would not close it by one percentage point and said that I knew it. I have to disagree with my friend; it will.

Mr. Wrye: How much?

Mr. Gillies: I think experience will show this, but I would like to come back to it in a moment.

Professor Gunderson thought another 10 to 15 per cent of the gap was due to differences of female participation within broad occupational groups and across establishments—for example, fewer women being in higher paid specializations within the medical profession and so on.

Mr. Wrye: What page is the parliamentary assistant on?

Mr. Gillies: I may not have the page the member has as this is a distillation of some of the professor's figures, but I would be pleased to send it over to him in a moment.

The professor thought another 15 to 25 per cent of the 37 per cent gap was caused by differences in participation between occupations in industries—for example, there are fewer women in the auto industry and more women in banking—and because of productivity-related

factors such as education, training and time worked.

It is very clearly seen from the professor's study that at no time—and the ministry paid very careful attention to what he was telling us—did he think equal value legislation would close the bulk of the wage gap. I accept that. My friend seems to have come to a latter-day, post-dinner acceptance of that.

In various meetings the professor had—

Mr. Wrye: I want the parliamentary assistant to repeat it, so I can do a point of privilege in a minute.

Mr. Gillies: My friend can do a point of privilege whenever he wishes.

Mr. Shymko: What did he say before lunch?

Mr. Gillies: This is not Abbott and Costello. I am not going to feed him his lines.

Also, in Professor Gunderson's meetings and discussions with the ministry, he felt the composite approach, the approach we are anticipating, would have an immediate or a reasonable expectation of closing the gap by about five percentage points. He was less specific about what equal value would do.

But the professor did say in an interview, which I am sure my friend read, with Rosemary Speirs on December 5 that equal value would have its own associated problems and it cannot hope to completely close the discriminatory gap. For all the inflammatory talk my friends opposite raised about what I said before dinner, that is what I am saying. We cannot create unreasonable expectations as my friend did by saying we would close the gap of 37 per cent by bringing in the Liberal amendment.

My friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich also said, and again I agree, that whatever we do today, be it equal value, be it the composite test or be it any other legislative measure, will have a spinoff effect, that its real impact, beyond the five per cent the professor identified, will be psychological or spinoff. In the ministry we believe our legislation, Bill 141 as it stands, will have a significant psychological and spinoff impact on the marketplace and we are very pleased that will be the case. I am glad my friend raised it.

He also raised the question of by what percentage there would be an increase in successful adjudications under the composite test as opposed to under the equal pay legislation we have now. I hope that even if the increase was 10 per cent, it would still be one heck of a lot more successful than the introduction of equal value legislation in Quebec.

Quebec enshrined equal value legislation in 1977, and I understand the first and only equal value court decision was rendered in Quebec just this past February, upholding a complaint launched by six women in 1979. The employer is appealing that decision and the Quebec human rights commission has yet to collect any money. Under the Quebec legislation, there has yet to be a penny collected to the benefit of any of the working women in that province.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I am sorry to interrupt, but before the member goes on, since he suggested I thought the 37 per cent wage gap could be wiped out, I have a copy of the rough Hansard, and I want to remind the member and read to him, "With those five words"—the words we proposed to delete—"we can take an important step, not the only step, but an important step towards reducing in a very important way the wage gap the women of Ontario must now face, a wage gap that is 37 cents on the dollar, with all the attendant spinoff effects that wage gap holds." I never said it would totally reduce it.

Mr. Gillies: I certainly apologize to my friend, but he will admit that even with what he said there and what he said a few minutes ago, there is a very distinct shift in emphasis in what the member is saying, from saying this is an important step towards the eradication of the 37 per cent to saying that it would be a step, it would be a largely psychological and spinoff effect and so on—a very different emphasis.

I hope whatever we do will be one heck of a lot more successful than the experiment in Quebec. If that is the equal value model we are going to hold up as the one to which we should aspire, I happen to think we can do one heck of a lot better in Ontario.

I would also like to touch briefly on some of the arguments put forward by my friend the member for Essex South. All I would really say about his remarks since we resumed the debate is that he raised a couple of examples, one regarding the salary paid to a woman cabinet minister as opposed to a male cabinet minister, and another about the negotiation of teacher contracts, which is all interesting but both those arguments have nothing to do with equal value legislation. Those are equal pay arguments. Obviously, all cabinet ministers perform similar work so they are paid the same. Teachers perform similar work so they are paid the same. It was an interesting argument, but completely irrelevant.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few moments to pass a few short comments because this debate this afternoon and this evening has been disturbing me greatly. First, it is very clear that the government has no intention of supporting equal value legislation in any shape or form, whether it be the amendment we are dealing with now or the amendment my colleague the member for Hamilton East will be moving later. So I would like to take just a few moments to speak to my Liberal colleagues about their amendment, and I attempt to do this in all sincerity.

I honestly cannot believe the naïveté that has been expressed here today by the Liberal caucus. How many times do we have to get kicked in the head before those people will begin to understand that the kind of amendment they moved this afternoon is totally meaningless? I will support their amendment, but it has no meaning and there are a number of members of our caucus who are extremely upset because it has no meaning. How many times do those people have to be kicked in the head, as we have been, before they will start to learn?

In this province, we passed an Environmental Protection Act and an Environmental Assessment Act. We set out no procedure; we set out no firm, established routine; we set out no enforcement commitments; and they have been decimated.

In 1968 we passed Bill 70, the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The two opposition parties fought like hell for a number of amendments to that piece of legislation. We did not set out in clear terms the staffing requirements and the inspection requirements, and that piece of legislation is in all kinds of trouble.

I listened to the member for Essex South say this afternoon, "I do not want to tell the government how many inspectors it has to hire." The member for Windsor-Sandwich talked about the bottom line with respect to women's dollars, women's paycheques. Well, there is no bottom line if there is no enforcement.

In a number of areas in this province we have some of the best pieces of legislation that exist. I mentioned a few of them this afternoon. We have rent review legislation in this province that has gone to tumbleweed because we set out the principle in 1975 and did not clearly establish the procedures; and it has fallen apart. Now they are standing up here and telling us that a simple amendment in principle is all of a sudden going to

cause something to happen. I say that is extreme and unnecessary naïveté.

There is an air in this House that we should deal with the principle. We dealt with the principle in October and it did not mean anything, and it will mean nothing to deal just with the principle here again today. If we do not establish in whatever we support a very clear approach to what we intend not only with respect to the principle but also with respect to how it will work, we will have accomplished absolutely nothing.

As I suggested, I will be supporting the amendment. There may be a number of members of our caucus who are frustrated enough and angry enough to vote against the amendment. I do not know.

Mr. Mancini: If it is not worth while, why are you supporting it? I do not understand it.

Mr. Charlton: I am supporting the amendment because I know the government is going to vote against the principle in the Liberal amendment and against the principle in ours, so I am just going to take two shots at stating my position. I chose to speak to this amendment so I could make my position perfectly clear, because this amendment is just another resolution of the member for Hamilton Centre, a statement of principle and nothing else. It will have no more effect.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I wish to participate briefly in the debate on the amendment that was proposed by my colleague the member for Essex South.

I wish to speak, of course, in favour of the amendment. I cannot help reflecting on some of the remarks that were made by the parliamentary assistant when he referred to the undue disruption in the labour market that such an amendment would presumably cause. I suppose if we were to have stood in a legislative assembly in some southern state in the United States over 100 years ago, we could probably have listened to a similar debate among legislators who were deciding whether they should abolish slavery.

Although you may think the parallel I am drawing is unfair, Mr. Chairman, we cannot help but feel society as a whole must start treating women as equal to men. Granted the amendment as proposed by my colleague cannot by itself do that, it will be a statement of principle and, together with other things we can do as legislators, I hope it will improve the status of women in this province.

Some time ago, we dealt with a report on family violence in this Legislature. We discussed

the issue of women who were abused by their partners. One of the themes of the report was that society in general must take whatever action is necessary so we can start considering women and men as equals.

Like many other members of this Legislature, I happen to be the father of some young children, one of whom is a girl. She is six years old. Most little girls grow up to be much bigger, and I can best describe in a very few words to this Legislature how I feel on this issue by stating that I for one will never accept that my daughter is worth 63 per cent of somebody else's son. That pretty well summarizes the way I feel on this issue.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, once again and very briefly, I would like to set the record straight, I think we have already banished my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold. I would not want somebody to my right to have a heart attack. Most of the New Democratic Party members will be voting for the Liberal amendment.

I simply want to state the frustration that is there because of the Liberal amendment they themselves say is not going to solve any of the problems. Removing the word "substantially" does absolutely nothing in terms of the basic principle of equal pay for work for equal value.

Mr. Mancini: I dare you not to vote for it then.

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not happen to like voting for the Tories on anything. That is one of the problems.

Mr. Mancini: How can you vote for something you do not believe in? What hypocrisy.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member has the floor and there are other ways of participating.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am not going to get exercised this time, Mr. Chairman. It is strange that we were some kind of oddballs if we did not support them; now we are real hypocrites if we do. I cannot quite understand what happens to my right here.

I just want to make the position of this caucus clear. The amendment will be supported, although it really means nothing. The gist of the bill is in the amendment I hope we will move shortly, unless there is a filibuster going tonight.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say briefly, particularly to my friend the member for Hamilton Mountain, I appreciate his comments on the amendment we have proposed.

I acknowledge there is a substantial difference between the NDP amendment and ours in subsection 33(2). Putting an employment standards officer in place is a very proactive amendment, but, quite frankly, I have no problem with that. It may be a slightly different approach, but I want to assure my friends this certainly is equal value legislation.

9 p.m.

I want to ask my friend the member for Brantford to make a couple of brief comments. He trotted out the Quebec experience, obviously because that was the best one for him to trot out. I would like to hear him talk a little bit about the experience federally, and how that is going. I have not yet heard him comment—I guess he is not going to, and I want to put it on the record if he is not going to—on what this ministry intends to do in terms of studies or pilot projects regarding equal value legislation.

This government has said it is in favour of enshrining the concept of equal value in the Employment Standards Act. I would hope the member for Brantford would get specific about what is going to happen. I hope he would do so in these final minutes of the debate on our amendment and perhaps as the debate continues on the amendment the member for Hamilton East is going to propose.

We are not the government. We wish we were. Both opposition parties wish they were the government, but it is the Conservative Party that has a mandate to govern. It is about time it got on with the job as far as the women of the province are concerned. The government has lots of bucks to spend on all sorts of foolish things—I have a good two-hour speech ready if the members want me to get into that; but I will not, the hour is late.

I would like to hear from the member for Brantford what is going on. We have been promised this stuff about studies almost since I came to this place. I would like to hear whether we will actually get any kind of studies or any kind of pilot project.

Finally, I refer the member to page 17 of the Gunderson study, the summary of highlights. He will not have this in his notes, because he has other notes prepared for him. The member for Brantford talked about the 60 per cent, which it was in February 1982. He also talked about the various productivity-related factors, experience, time worked, education and the like; this brought it to somewhere in the range of 75 to 85 per cent. Then there were a number of other factors that ultimately narrowed it to 90 to 95 per cent, a gap

of five per cent. The member will choose five, so let me choose 10.

If we are talking about even a five per cent gap, I would like to hear how much the composite test is going to narrow it. I would also like to hear why, if it is going to close the gap—let me be generous on my side—at the 10 per cent level, the women of this province would not expect the government to say this part of the arsenal of our weapons is going to close more than 25 per cent of the existing wage gap.

The member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) said the women of this province, be they young or old, would like to hear from the government beyond the words it mouths at the time of resolutions. This is the bottom line. I know my friends on the left believe there are not sufficient details about compliance—the member for Hamilton Mountain mentioned that—but there are certain compliance rules within the present laws. However, we are not talking about a resolution now; we are talking about a clause in a bill. If this amendment carries, the composite test is dead and equal value legislation lives.

I would like to know from the member for Brantford why the women of the province, faced with the possibility of being able to narrow the wage gap by an additional 10 per cent and make it only 27 per cent, should not want to go for the whole thing. Why should they take half a loaf when they can have the whole thing?

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few more comments in reply to my friend opposite.

We are dealing with hypothetical numbers, regardless of the research done by Professor Gunderson and others. There could be possibly a five per cent narrowing of the gap, possibly 10 per cent, possibly something in between. However, I would hope we would look at the practical experience and at what we know about some of the legislative solutions that have been tried. Quebec had an equal value case, since the introduction of legislation in 1977, which adjudicated a meaningful raise for six women. Six people in a province the size of Quebec is a very small number. One has to wonder how effective that legislation has been.

The member for Windsor-Sandwich asked about the federal experience. I suppose it has indirectly had a much greater degree of success, but that was in the case of the general service workers. It was a matter that was settled by agreement and there was no adjudication, so there has not been a single adjudication.

If we were to increase the number of cases we adjudicate under our equal pay law in Ontario by 10 per cent at the very least, it would be a great improvement, a tremendous improvement over what is going on in any other province in the country in terms of percentage.

My friend asked what we are going to do; what the members can tangibly look for. One thing he can look for, and I can give him the assurance my minister has already made, is a very dramatic increase and tightening of enforcement procedures. With the passage of this legislation, we anticipate an increase in staff of officers in this area in the employment standards branch of five or six. Five officers will be assigned.

Mr. Wrye: At least one in Windsor.

Mr. Gillies: I cannot promise one for Windsor, but we will do our best. Five more officers will be specifically adjudicating cases that will arise out of this legislation. They are being hired to enforce what we enact in Bill 141. That is what they will be doing. They will be in the employment standards branch, and doubtless other cases that might have come up under our previous legislation will go to them.

I give my friends opposite that assurance and they can let us know a year or two years from now whether they do not think it is happening. We are beefing up staff. There will be more prosecutions; there will be more adjudications made on behalf of the working women in Ontario, I can tell the members that.

In terms of studies and future considerations of this very important legislation, we will be carefully monitoring what we bring in. I can tell the members that Professor Gunderson and other people are available to the ministry to launch studies as required of what we should be doing beyond Bill 141.

I have one last point, if I may give this assurance again. I know my friend has a concern that we get into rhetoric, and I am not talking rhetoric, but in this House he has heard the Premier, the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for Women's Issues reaffirm time and again the commitment of this government to equality for working women and equality in the work force for all people.

One of the members opposite raised a rather dramatic and a very unfair comment about a debate on slavery in the southern United States. As he will recall, because I know my friend is a student of the history of Ontario, one of the first acts introduced in the Parliament of Upper Canada way back in the early days of the political organization of our province was a bill abolishing

slavery. We in this jurisdiction have always been at the leading edge of social legislation for the good of working people and we will continue to be.

I urge the member not to take the assurances made by the ministers and the Premier lightly. We are very serious about what we are doing in this legislation.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I would first like to say that I am very confused by the position of the members of the New Democratic Party. Some are going to vote against our amendment; others are going to vote in favour of the amendment, even though they claim it is worthless and really not supportable. I cannot understand why they would vote for any amendment if they did not truly believe it was worthy of their support.

At this time, I want to ask the parliamentary assistant again—he is good at avoiding some of the questions—before we have a vote on this amendment, to please give us an example or two of the disruptions that are going to be caused in the economy and in the work place as he described them earlier on this afternoon.

9:10 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I have to hearken back to the predinner speech by my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich, in which the emphasis was definitely on a very dramatic closing of the wage gap, 37 per cent, that he anticipated through the passage of legislation.

Our concern would be that the great bulk of this wage gap is not caused by the absence of legislation. It is caused by the fact that women are not competing in equivalent types of occupations with men. It is caused by lower levels of education and training among our working women. It is caused by the fact that more women are likely to be employed in part-time occupations as opposed to full-time ones.

I guess our concern would be, frankly, that legislation alone could take attention away from those other very serious problems and in the long run perhaps militate against solving those problems where the bulk of the problems lie.

Some have expressed a concern—and my friends can look back through the committee considerations that went on those many weeks—that to bring in dramatic legislative changes alone could cause disruption in the marketplace and could cause, in some sectors where women are heavily employed, perhaps higher levels of unemployment.

Mr. Wrye: Threats do not scare you any other time.

Mr. Gillies: That is a concern expressed by some in the marketplace, and we have to give due recognition to that argument, whether or not we completely agree with it.

These are some of the concerns. We feel equality for women in the work place is a goal we have to continue to work towards. We do not feel legislation itself in this narrow area is going to close the wage gap completely; we have to continue our efforts in all those other areas to do that, and so that is the stated intention of the government.

I certainly hope, regardless of any disagreements over amendments being proposed by the various caucuses, that all members of the House will read again what we are doing for the working people of Ontario through Bill 141 and, in the final analysis, lend the bill their support.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, as usual we did not really receive a full answer from the parliamentary assistant; there were no specifics whatsoever. He uses a scare tactic of unemployment. If we pay people a fair wage, he says, it is going to cause unemployment. He further points out that the problem is, as we all know, that job ghettos have been created because of the fact that these jobs have been traditionally done by women and therefore paid less.

I want to recall to the parliamentary assistant the comments I made in the committee. I informed the committee that last fall I travelled to Italy. I had some business to do in one or two of the banks, and I was quite surprised when I went into the banks that almost every single employee there was male. I asked my uncle, "Why are there no females who work in the banks?" He said, "The banking jobs in Italy are the highest-paying and the most prestigious," whereas over here in North America that is not the case. Therefore, we have created a job ghetto, and we funnel women into this job ghetto.

Once it is changed, once equal pay for work of equal value has been put in place and women are paid on the same basis as men for their skill and for the responsibility they must undertake, we will see men flowing into these jobs also; that in itself will help eliminate the problem and help eliminate the job ghettos. The parliamentary assistant says we cannot do this because we have job ghettos. I say to him that we should do this and it will help eliminate the job ghettos.

He should not use these scare tactics about unemployment and he should not throw up excuses such as that these jobs have traditionally been done by women, because we have seen around the world, whenever working conditions

are appropriate and salaries are good, competent people flow into those areas if given the opportunity.

A lot of working women are holding jobs that require a great deal of competence, skill and hard work. Because of the mere fact that there are no men in their particular work place, the minister says: "No. Let us not change the situation. Let us not help rid the economy of job ghettos." If we accepted the logic the parliamentary assistant puts forward, we would continue the status quo without any direct benefits either now or in the foreseeable future to the working women of this province.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to prolong the debate unduly. There have been many debates about equal value involving various ministers and critics for lo these many months. All I say to my friend opposite is that we do not believe the sole weapon in the arsenal we need to eliminate job ghettos is legislation.

While I fully accept my friend's argument that in Italy bank employees are apparently treated differently, they have a different role in the economic structure than they do here. I would ask him if he could please give me one example—and I do not say this because I know the answer; I am asking to elicit information—of a jurisdiction that has brought in equal value legislation which has eliminated job ghettos.

It is the stated position of the government that legislation can close a percentage. We accept that. We feel what we are doing with Bill 141 will in time close a percentage of the gap; but we feel much more than that is needed. Much more of the answer lies in our education system, in our training programs, in some social programs and in the very way our society treats its working women. We feel that is a much larger part of the solution.

If my friend can tell me where in the world job ghettos have been eliminated, where women have been raised to virtually equivalent status in some job streams because of legislation, I would very much like to hear it. With respect to the research that has been done by the ministry and the government, it is certainly not the experience in the jurisdictions we have examined.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take up the challenge that has been launched by the member for Brantford and set to rest some of the myths the government has assisted in perpetuating about the whole issue of job ghettoization and women.

Myth number one is that women will somehow achieve improved status in the work force if we

improve our education; that it is simply and solely the education system that is responsible for job ghettoization. We must bear in mind as members of the Legislature and as citizens of Ontario that on average the women of this province are better educated than the men.

The infamous issue of the parking lot attendant versus the switchboard operator has been raised time and again in relation to equal value. I think everyone in this Legislature will agree that the switchboard operator, who needs a minimum of a grade 12 education with good communication skills and public relations, is often at the forefront of any inquiries that come to this government. It is clear that the educational limitations of the switchboard operator are not the factor that leads to that switchboard operator being paid less than a parking lot attendant, who must meet the criterion of being able to communicate effectively in the English language.

9:20 p.m.

It is clear in the example pointed out by my colleague the member for Essex South that the Italian banking system has decided in its wisdom that banking is an overvalued or valued position occupied by men. If we look at examples in the Canadian system, such as the nursing profession, we women are constantly being told the reason we do not ascend to positions of upper management is that we have had too many limitations on our participation in the work force; we have taken time out to have families. In fact, we know women are more stable than men in their stick-to-itiveness to a particular occupation.

We have been told that perhaps we do not have the experience, the education or the background. Yet if we look at the nursing profession, one of the professions that has been predominantly occupied by females, we have seen over the last few years an increasing trend, albeit rather small, for men to enter the profession.

If we analyse the number of men who, having entered the nursing profession very recently—that is, in the last decade—have managed to ascend quite swiftly to positions of management in the profession, it belies the kind of argument made by the member for Brantford that the difficulty women face is simply that we are ghettoized in traditional jobs that have been undervalued.

For example, let us look at the salary levels attributed to a child care worker. I think everyone in this House would agree that a child care worker is responsible for the care of our number one resource, our young people. Anyone who has taken the time to study Piaget or any of the psychologists or child psychologists, will know

that the formative years from age zero to five are critical to a child's development.

Presumably, when we are according to a child care worker the responsibility for looking after that child, we are according the responsibility for looking after and developing one of our greatest resources. The salary of the average child care worker in Ontario forces many of them to carry on simply for the love of the job, because they are not doing it for financial remuneration. Let us compare that salary with the salary that can be accorded someone in a traditional male assembly line job. Are the Minister responsible for Women's Issues and the government suggesting it is more laudable for women simply to seek nontraditional jobs on assembly lines, or is the government prepared to face the issue that women's jobs have been undervalued and underpaid because they are seen to be women's work?

It is patent nonsense for the government to suggest that any member on any side of the House believes equal value legislation will solve all the problems. Morley Gunderson in his own report has suggested a conservative estimate of a seven per cent increase in women's salaries compared with those of men if equal value legislation were enacted.

I would suggest to any member of this House that I do not think any of the women in Ontario who are earning 63 cents for every dollar earned by a man would object to the government passing legislation that would bring them up to 70 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

For the government to suggest we cannot support this legislation simply because it will close the gap by only five or 10 per cent is an admission of impotence in the face of one of the most serious problems we are facing in society today.

I think it is clear that the comments made by my colleague with respect to the bank workers in Italy point to the difficulty of the problem that female job ghettos have traditionally been undervalued. How do we solve the problem? Do we merely move the women en masse into male job ghettos, or do we begin to take a real quantitative look at the value of the work they are doing in comparison with the value of work being done in dissimilar jobs within the same company? That is the issue at stake in the discussion today.

I do not think any member would argue that this legislation would be the panacea to bridge the gap between the salaries of men and women, but it would certainly be a step in the right

direction. The same government that purports to be concerned about women's issues, that at least in a smoke-and-mirrors fashion is beginning to recognize an increasing gender gap in voting patterns, must also believe the women of Ontario are incredibly stupid if it thinks we are going to be sold lock, stock and barrel by a piece of legislation that does not in any small measure do what it purports to do.

We have only to think back to the comments made last January by the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Mr. Sean O'Flynn, when he told our committee quite clearly that Bill 141 as currently structured will do absolutely nothing to allow comparisons between jobs within the public service. We are talking about thousands of civil servants who presumably are going to be at the vanguard of any social change affecting equal value legislation. According to the president of OPSEU, not one of those employees will be affected by this legislation.

The arguments that we will not totally bridge the wage gap or that somehow women are to blame for the situation because we have not been trained in nontraditional jobs, because we have sought value in things like child care work, because we have looked at traditionally nurturing professions, like the nursing profession—which, I might add, requires as much education as many other helping professions, predominantly male, which are overvalued in salary terms—are gratuitous arguments that the government seems to be foisting on the people in the hope we might buy them.

I think the old adage you cannot fool all of the people all of the time applies in this particular case. I would warn the government that if it moves ahead with this bill without the kind of substantive amendments that have been presented by both opposition parties, it will be sending a clear message to the women of Ontario that not only does it undervalue their jobs and their economic worth, it also undervalues their intelligence, because it believes they are going to be sold down the river and will actually believe this particular piece of legislation as it stands unamended is going to help the women of Ontario.

The women of Ontario are not that short-sighted; they are not that shallow. They are getting political. I think it is about time the government paid more than lipservice to the women of this province by introducing and supporting the substantive amendments we have presented on this side of the House.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, many of the points raised by the member for Hamilton Centre are quite valid, but I do not know if there is any great value in our getting into a war of statistics.

She cited Professor Gunderson's report and his feelings that equal value legislation might close the wage gap by about seven per cent. Professor Gunderson has advised the government that the type of approach we are taking through the composite test would have an impact of approximately five per cent. We have no way of knowing whether that is valid. I do not want to split hairs between five per cent and seven per cent. Maybe her approach would be marginally better. Who knows?

I want to assure my friend opposite that there is a commitment over here on this side of the House, as I sense there is certainly on her side of the House, to improve the position of working women in our society, to see them advance and eventually to see the complete elimination of the wage gap. I do not think either the member or I believe this will be accomplished solely through legislation.

I think we disagree somewhat on the approach, but with the introduction of the legislation we are putting forward, with the Deputy Premier's (Mr. Welch) current and ongoing considerations of the whole question of affirmative action, with a serious look at the other things that lead to ghettoization in regard not only to the length of education but also the type of education, not only the degree of training but also the type of training and all of these things, we can close that gap.

I share the member's concern entirely. I do not think what we are doing through Bill 141 is smoke and mirrors. It is perhaps a somewhat different approach from that put forward by the Liberal Party, which in turn is somewhat different from that which we will see put forward shortly by the New Democratic Party. None the less, it is a step forward, and a very determined step forward, by our government to address the wage gap and the situation of working women in our jurisdiction.

9:30 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I really just wanted to engage the parliamentary assistant for a moment or two on what he has said and said again to each of the members who has spoken on it. In this sort of arsenal of weapons he has by way of legislation, education training and all the other things, he has missed out one of the fundamental parts of it. It is not a question of his commitment but a question of his fundamental inability to understand the simple proposition

that is before the assembly time and again on the question of equal pay for work of equal value.

The parliamentary assistant is still hung up, he continues to be hung up and his government is hung up on the proposition that women's work is essential but subordinate and that therefore, a fortiori, men's work is essential but superior. What he does not understand is it is not a question of affirmative action in any sense in the basic, fundamental inequality that exists in the society. Affirmative action has a place within a framework of upgrading the opportunities for women to contest for other kinds of jobs. It has a role there.

What he fails to understand is that the work women are doing today is essential and equal to the kind of male work he thinks is essential and superior. He has a basic, fundamental immediate job to do, and that is to raise immediately the wage scales and levels of all women who are engaged in activities that up to now he and his government have designated as essential but subordinate.

If the parliamentary assistant wants to get hung up on all the minutiae of comparisons between this job and that job, then he will not understand what I am trying to say to him. He has an across-the-board obligation to move immediately to upgrade all those areas where the majority of workers are women. The way to do that is to say to himself: "We have always thought of that job as essential but subordinate. Today we are going to think about it as essential and equal to many other areas of work that are done."

Until he takes that first, fundamental initial step, which is the kind of step he seems incapable of taking, he is not ever going to understand the principle of the issue that is before the assembly time and time again. For him to mouth and parrot to us that he understands the principle of equal pay for work of equal value does not make it so. What does not make it so is a fundamental inability of members of the Tory caucus and the Tory government to understand that proposition.

It is not a question of denigrating work; it is a question of having said it is essential but subordinate. That has always been the tradition—a fortiori, the work men do is essential but superior. Until they get rid of that dichotomy of what is subordinate and what is superior, they are not going to understand the issue.

Their first job is to say: "We have been wrong. The attitudes of society have been wrong. Here is what we want to do in Ontario." Not the rest of the world; there is plenty to do right here at home

without trying to make comparisons with other jurisdictions.

What they have to do is understand that the basic areas of work occupied by women today are being paid at a level that reflects that fundamental misconception, valid as it may have been in a different society, but invalid as it is today. Women's work is essential and equal to the work men do, which is essential and equal. People in this society are entitled to that equality on all fronts.

This evening we happen to be speaking mainly about the question of equal pay for work of equal value in relation to men and women. That is the fallacy in the continued reiteration by him of the proposition that we cannot do it by legislation and we have to do it by education, training and affirmative action.

It will start right in the caucus of the Tory party when the members meet some Tuesday morning and thrash it out among themselves and there is a united agreement on this principle. Whatever the parliamentary assistant or any other member of the government may say about keeping the promise, or doing what they say they mean to do and are committed to do, they must understand that they have to start right in that Tory caucus.

We all know each other pretty well one way or another. It is that fundamental inability I would draw to the parliamentary assistant's attention. I hope at the time he will say to this House: "We understand, we did caucus, we did come forward. It is not a question of us saying we agree in principle. We agree in the practicality of requiring it to be done if we believe in an equal society."

That is the question the government has to face. Equality is not something that comes easily. Equality comes by legislation. The parliamentary assistant himself took pride a few minutes ago in the fact that slavery was abolished by legislation. He was using that as a basis for castigating somebody by indicating that what we were talking about was slave conditions. To use the same example, not because it is slavery but because we are trying to create conditions of equality among people, the way to do it is not to link legislation as if it were one of several equal instruments. It is one of the principal instruments, one of the major instruments of changing social attitudes.

A former leader of this party used to carry around in his pocket a little saying by a man named Pound, who was dean of the Harvard Law School. It said something to the effect, "You tell me you cannot legislate morality. I say, sir, you

do little else but legislate morality. Morality, sir, in its fundamental sense is equality." That is my view of the problem the parliamentary assistant poses for this assembly in the constant reiteration of his commitment and the way in which he is going to deal with this problem.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, we are getting into some of the fundamental philosophical questions that face us. I would say to my friend opposite that he is quite right. There has been on more than one occasion an in-depth, lengthy and sometimes heated discussion in our caucus on this issue, as I am sure there has been in the caucus of the official opposition and in the NDP caucus.

It is a very difficult question we are wrestling with. We all have in our caucuses people who come from different backgrounds, who bring different slants to this argument, such as former employers, former professional people, all sorts of people. We have adopted as a caucus the position that through legislative amendment to the Employment Standards Act, as we contemplate it in Bill 141, we can begin to close that wage gap to a degree.

We do not believe it can be eliminated by legislation. The most fervent advocates of equal value, the most fervent speakers in favour of the Liberal amendment, and I am sure when we come to the NDP amendment we will hear it again, would not say the wage gap can be completely closed and eliminated by legislation. That is why I raise these other points.

I am not shirking our legislative responsibility. I am not backing away an inch from what we are doing. I do believe as a Legislature we want to debate not only what we can do tonight, next week or next year by legislation, but also the disappearance of the 37 per cent wage gap between men and women and how that will be accomplished.

9:40 p.m.

We believe legislation is part of the answer. I do not believe experience shows us it is the whole answer. However, if through this legislation we close that wage gap—and Lord only knows, I am the worst person when it comes to statistics because I generally disagree with them and forecasters are notoriously inaccurate when they talk about labour force trends—five per cent, I think we have accomplished something meaningful; if we close it seven per cent or 10 per cent, so much the better.

This is why I am pleased to be carrying Bill 141 on behalf of my minister, because I believe it

is part of the answer to achieving the very equality of which the member spoke.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Mancini's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves Bill 141 be amended by deleting section 1 and substituting the following therefor:

Part IX of the Employment Standards Act, being chapter 137 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"Part IX—Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value

"33(1) No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall establish or maintain any difference in wages paid to a male and to a female employee employed in the same establishment who are performing work of equal value unless the difference is based on seniority or quantity of production.

"(2) An employment standards officer may assess the value of work performed for the purposes of subsection (1) and, where the officer finds that an employer has failed to comply with subsection (1), the officer may determine the amount of money owing to an employee because of the noncompliance, including any expenses incurred by the employee in enforcing subsection (1), and the amount shall be deemed to be unpaid wages.

"(3) In assessing the value of work performed by employees employed in the same establishment, the criterion to be applied is the composite of the skill, effort and responsibility required in the performance of the work and the conditions under which the work is performed.

"(4) Separate establishments established or maintained by an employer solely or principally for the purpose of establishing or maintaining differences in wages between male and female employees shall be deemed for the purposes of this part to be a single establishment.

"(5) No employer shall reduce the rate of pay of an employee in order to comply with subsection (1).

"(6) No organization of employers or employees or its agents shall cause or attempt to cause an employer to agree to or to pay to his or her employees wages that are in contravention of subsection (1).

"(7) A complaint that an employer contravenes this section may be made by an employee, a class of employees employed in the same establishment or an employees' organization.

"(8) An employer, employee or class of employees that is aggrieved by a decision or order made by an employment standards officer under this part or section 47 may, within a period of 15 days after the date of delivery, service or notice of the decision or order, or such longer period as the director may for special reasons allow, apply for a review of the decision or order by way of a hearing before a referee and subsections 50(2) to (7) apply to the review, with necessary modifications, except that the referee has the power to make an order under section 47 in addition to the powers conferred by section 50.

"(9) The minister shall table a report annually in the Legislature on the progress of compliance with this part and the annual reports shall be referred to a standing or special committee of the Legislature every three years."

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, the meat of the issue is now before us, and it is simply a question of whether or not this House, the members of this House and this government are ready to move in a positive and direct way to establish the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

Quite frankly, it is a disgrace that we have to have the current bill on the floor here tonight and that we do not have a section such as we have read out, or something close to it. It is a disgrace and an indictment of the Conservative government, as far as I am concerned, that they have known of the inequities that exist and that these inequities have been documented in case after case for as long as they have; and also that they have known that they themselves have some commitment to the International Labour Organization convention number 100, which established back in 1971—and it was supported by this province—equal pay for work of equal value. It was subsequently ratified by a number of countries, at least one province and basically now the federal government, but not the province of Ontario.

What did we get instead? We got a bill that deliberately, in my opinion, tried to skate around or evade the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. What is worse, we got a bill that was deliberately loaded with a couple of little sugar-coated placebos.

There is nothing wrong with them. There is a section in this bill on pregnancy leave, and it was needed and long overdue; there is a section on adoption, and it was needed and long overdue. Nobody could oppose those sections, although they might be better worded and they might be tightened up considerably. Everybody would

support those two sections in the bill. Apparently the intent is to say: "Hey, we have given you something that makes sense. There is no way you can oppose a bill such as we have now put on the floor of this House."

I want to make it very clear that while we might support the Liberal amendment, while we did support the Conservative amendment earlier—a very small point, but we supported it—and while we might have voted in a separate bill for those two particular changes in the Employment Standards Act, we are not going to be sucked in by that kind of presentation in this House, because it is going to be a while before we will have another bill before us that deals with the issue of equal pay for work of equal value.

The Tories have made a lot of mileage for a lot of years by being able to play pretty clever games, but some day they are going to have to face the issue; some day they are going to have to decide. As one of the Liberal members said, when you look at your daughter, who may be six, 10 or 12 now, do you think she should have to work for 70 per cent of what a man makes?

I think they are going to start moving on it, because it does not take much arithmetic to take a look at the lineup, the coalition of women's groups, the labour movement now and also at the population figures to see that now just slightly over 52 per cent of the population of the province are women. When the government finally gets a little bit scared that these women realize what has been going on, that it has been going on for a long time, that they are not going to take it any longer and that this might then mean some of the government members' seats, then they will probably be ready to move, but we would like to hurry it along a bit.

9:50 p.m.

I suppose if it meant getting rid of the government members altogether, I might delay for a short period of time, but I do not want to. I would like them to be put on the spot right now and to have to decide if they are going to continue to play this little game with a bill that does not deal with the basic issue.

There are a number of things I want to quote in this House tonight. I dug out, if I can find it, some of the debate that went on in 1979. I can go back a lot further than that from my reading, but it is interesting. First, just to cover what I mentioned earlier about this government being put on notice a long time ago, is one simple sentence from a previous colleague of mine, Ted Bounsall from Windsor-Sandwich. When he moved his Bill 3 in this House in 1979, he said:

"The idea of equal pay for work of equal value is not a new one; it was first passed," or carried some stature in the world, "in 1971 by the International Labour Organization convention 100 and ratified at that time by 83 countries.

This convention" of the United Nations "was ratified in Canada in 1972" when it received approval in principle from all provinces, including Ontario, yet Ontario has to date done nothing to implement that commitment. There was an internal ministry report advocating equal pay for work of equal value some two years ago,—"that would have been 1977—"which was rejected by ministry officials.

There is absolutely no activity or consideration of equal pay for work of equal value taking place within the ministry now. As I understand it, the concept has been killed totally within the ministry, which is a disgrace and this gross discrimination against women continues in Ontario."

A little later I am going to quote some of the answers of the Minister of Labour at the time, the member for York East (Mr. Elgie). Some of them sound remarkably like the comments about how we might disrupt the economic order in Ontario that we heard from the parliamentary assistant tonight.

There are probably good reasons for it, but I find it significant that we have the parliamentary assistant with his great labour record and record on women's issues—an outstanding one I am sure—handling this bill in the House. I would have thought the equal pay for work of equal value issue would have rated the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, who was specifically appointed to that position and handpicked as one of the more high-profile Tory cabinet ministers.

I think this was probably done because—relating to what I said a few minutes earlier—they are beginning to understand there is a growing groundswell in this province about the way we have treated women and women workers. They picked one of their best at skating and someone with a pretty good reputation and whom everybody likes. I really do not know why he is not here to shepherd this bill through and answer some of the questions.

If not him, then why not the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay)? I guess either the bill is not that important—they themselves recognize it is a nonbill—or maybe they do not want to be associated with the arguments that try to put down the opposition. Perhaps they do not wish to appear to be giving some credibility to a position

I do not think it is possible to give any credit to, that position being the bill we have before us.

I would like to make it very clear this party will not be supporting Bill 141 unless this amendment carries. We might support certain amendments. We would have supported the two sections that give some relief to women workers, regardless of those votes—four amendments. Regardless of whether any of the others carry, regardless of the fact the government has tried to trick people with a couple of nice little specialties in this bill, this party will not be supporting Bill 141 unless our amendment carries.

We will be very proud of that position. We recognize we have from time to time taken some positions that allow our enemies to take potshots at us or try to isolate a vote on a specific issue. However, we have decided we are sick and tired of the games that are played and the dishonesty of this piece of legislation.

We spent some time with the coalition, with the different women's groups; teachers; trade union groups; business and professional women; the head of the coalition, Mary Cornish, who is a lawyer and the people who work with her; and Sean O'Flynn of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, who was referred to by the Liberals. I do not know when they last talked to them on this bill, but we talked to all of them.

Their position was, if anything, stronger than the position they took in the three days of hearings before Christmas. Incidentally, those were three days of hearings which this party forced when everyone else in this House, both government members and the members to our right, was ready to go through that bill in one or two days to get it through before Christmas.

We got a request from the groups who were saying: "This is too much of an issue. Too long we have been fighting for the issue of equality. You are not going to get away with that. We do not want that to happen."

We said, "No. You can withdraw the bill." That was the specific and exact threat of the Minister of Labour. I sat in at one of the meetings with him and the Deputy Premier and our House leader when he said, "You either support this bill and shove it through in the last couple of days of the session or the bill is withdrawn."

I know from some of my reporter—I should not say "friends"—contacts, that as late as 3:30 or 4 p.m., when all of a sudden the about-face was done, the same Minister of Labour was telling the press the bill was dead, that the NDP had killed it because we were demanding more than just the two days to rush it through this House.

What happened? They had a House leaders' meeting at 6 or 6:30 p.m. and all of a sudden they said: "Put it through second reading. We will send it out and will give you three days; then we can bring it back for clause-by-clause consideration some time in the new session."

If I had been the Minister of Labour in an issue such as that with my legs cut right off at the knees, I would have been a bit annoyed, but it was obvious that shoving it through in that kind of time, even if they had the Liberals on side, was something that even bothered the Conservatives in this House a little.

We got our hearings and some of the Tory members, as well as our people, sat in on those hearings. The groups were not happy. Almost every one of them told the members clearly in those hearings that they did not like this bill and that it should not be supported even with those two sugar-coated placebos in it.

Did anything change? As I said, I do not know how much checking other members in this House did, but we made a point of touching base with these groups, and we were proud to. After all, they have led the fight on this. My colleague in this House going back a number of years, Ted Bounsall, really started focusing the issue.

Other than that, no matter what we have done as politicians, all of us in all parties, it is the coalition of women's groups that has finally said: "We are getting strong enough. We are going to organize and we are going to pull diverse groups together. We want some action on something that is only just and is supposed to be the position of the province."

We went back to them, and those groups told us the same thing in the last two weeks that they told us at those hearings: "Do not get sucked in. Do not buy this kind of bill. Yes, we would like a couple of its provisions, but we are being euchred once again and we do not like it."

That is why I want to make it very clear—not that we do not think there are a couple of things we would like to have been able to vote for—that we have no intention of playing the minister's game with women in Ontario, no intention whatever, and that we will proudly stand to vote against this bill.

We will take our chances on their running around the province saying, "We tried to do something for women and the NDP voted against it." I do not think he will withdraw it this time, so I suppose we will get the placebos anyhow, but quite frankly, even if he were threatening it, it would not bother me because sooner or later he is going to have to face where his party stands.

10 p.m.

My colleague the member for Riverdale put it very well. It is the fundamental commitment as to whether or not the government is finally going to do something. They are finally going to say: "We are on side. We know we are wrong. Now something has to be changed in Ontario."

That is what we are debating and trying to get across to people here today. That is why it was a little unfortunate that we wasted the time we did in the games that were played here tonight by all of us on the amendments. It is a little unfortunate that we did that, because this is the fundamental amendment; it does change the entire section and the principle clearly. If it had got on the floor first, we could have had at this debate this afternoon and again tonight at eight o'clock rather than fooling around as we did.

I guess the frustration showed in some of my colleagues. We talked it over and said: "We have nothing to lose. We gain nothing but we have nothing to lose on the amendment that is before us."

I am a little discouraged that there has not been more understanding by all opposition members as to what is at stake with this issue, this debate and this bill here tonight.

I think it is worth going over a number of things. A little later, I want to go into some of the debate that went on in 1979 because it was an excellent one. I should stop for just a minute and make the comment that when that debate was on the floor of this House—we got to second reading, then amendments were moved—there was general support for it. It never got through in the final analysis, but in 1979 it seemed we were on the verge of a breakthrough.

As I say, the debate was excellent. I am going to enjoy reading some of the comments of the Liberal minister who was responsible at the time and some of the comments made by some of the other members.

Ms. Copps: The Liberal minister? Wishful thinking.

Mr. Mackenzie: Pardon me; the Tory minister at the time.

Mr. Boudria: Next year there will be all kinds of Liberal ministers.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: I suspect the Liberals would not have much trouble dealing with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations as a colleague. They do not seem to have much

trouble dealing with most of the members on the opposite side of the House.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member for Hamilton East has the floor.

Mr. Mackenzie: I want to warn my colleagues on the right—I am going to read some comments of those across the way, whom I recognize as the enemy; it is just a game with these people over here—that if I get too much heckling, I will read back some of the comments some of their members gave to the women who did the canvassing in this building the other day. It might knock members off their feet.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Read them back.

Mr. Shymko: Do not be afraid.

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member for Hamilton East has the floor.

Mr. Wrye: I am sure you are absolutely certain of the quotes too.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am never as sure as some others. I will qualify it to the extent that I sat in for two hours on a debriefing. It was absolutely excellent. There were 97 women and three men there plus officials of the Ontario Federation of Labour. It was a debriefing of the people who were canvassing. They taped some of it. They also took notes from women who came around in groups of three and four. Some of the comments were very interesting.

Mr. O'Neil: Read them back. Play the tapes back.

Mr. Breaugh: These guys are begging to have that on the record. We should do it as a public service.

Mr. O'Neil: Read us back those tapes.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: I really do not want to be provoked into doing that, Mr. Chairman, but the pressure is so great, I will give the members just a couple of samples.

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member for Hamilton East has the floor.

Mr. O'Neil: Those are only the NDP lackeys.

The Acting Chairman: The member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) will please bring himself to order.

Mr. O'Neil: We do not want to hear what the NDP lackeys have to say.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: Regarding the commitment to equal pay for work of equal value, I sent a questionnaire to the past Liberal leader, the

member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), in the House the other night. There were four questions. I simply said, "Quiz: Can you identify your colleagues who made the following comments?" First—this is not so much a comment; it is the rating he was given: "Which Liberal member earned the unanimous rating of 'pompous, arrogant and awful'?" That rating came from two of the three women.

Mr. Breauth: You are in the running, Remo, but you are not a close second.

Mr. O'Neil: Tell us the way it really is.

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) on a matter of privilege.

Mr. O'Neil: Tell it the way it is, Remo.

An hon. member: Tell us about those NDP hacks.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order. I can wait.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: If the member for Essex South really believes in freedom of information, he will tell us.

The Acting Chairman: The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is out of order. I recognize the member for Essex South on a matter of privilege.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I am actually surprised that even the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) would go along with this.

I want to say that the member for Hamilton East claims to be speaking for some individuals. While he is making those claims, he is trying to impute motives and he is trying to—

Some hon. members: No, no.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, he is.

Mr. O'Neil: Definitely.

The Acting Chairman: Order. Let me hear the point of privilege.

Mr. Mancini: He is saying that certain members of a caucus were viewed in a particular way. He smears the entire caucus. We are not sure whether those comments come from a biased or unbiased source.

Mr. Bradley: I can tell where they come from—a biased source.

Mr. O'Neil: NDP hacks.

The Acting Chairman: I am still trying to concentrate on what you are saying.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, let me finish and then you can make your judgement.

The Acting Chairman: I am still trying to hear what you are saying.

Mr. Mancini: He uses this opportunity when we are supposed to be talking about what he claims is a very important amendment to an important bill. Instead of speaking to the bill, as we thought was his intention, he uses information we do not know is biased or unbiased to smear the entire caucus.

Mr. Chairman, I think you should consider what the member has said and whether it is in order or whether the privileges of some members have been abused. I feel my privileges have been abused. If I picked up a document and said some people had told me a certain number of derogatory things about somebody in the NDP, I would hope someone from their caucus would stand up and say they were not going to be smeared in that fashion.

I hope you have a chance to think this over, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman—

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member for Quinte; but let me first find out whether it is the same point of privilege or a new point of privilege.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, it is a different point of privilege.

The Acting Chairman: Then let me rule on the first one.

I cannot recognize the comments of the member for Essex South as a point of privilege. However, I remind all honourable members of the provisions of the standing orders, particularly the provisions of section 19, which deal with the rules of debate.

I also remind the member for Hamilton East, as a veteran member of this House, that he knows the response he is likely to evoke if he attempts to be provocative. I will rule accordingly and individually on every occasion as is necessary.

On a new point of privilege, the member for Quinte.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: It relates to the comments that were made by the NDP member. I would like to ask the member whether he would—

The Acting Chairman: Just address your point of privilege to the chair.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: The member stated that certain Liberal members were taped, and he accused some of those members of comments that were what I would call unparliamentary. I would ask if the Chairman would investigate whether the

member sent some of his political hacks out to tape some of our people, and likely some of the Conservative members, and whether those members were made aware they were being taped on those occasions.

Mr. Mackenzie: On the same point, Mr. Chairman: I want to set the record very clear.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: This is important. Obviously, they were not listening. Certainly, the member for Quinte was not listening. I did not say at any time that any of them or any of the Tory members were taped. To the best of my knowledge, they were not. What I did say was that notes were taken and turned in and some taping was done at the debriefing.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order. I was not able to determine in the general din whether the member for Hamilton East made some reference to taping.

Mr. O'Neil: He did.

The Acting Chairman: Order. Hansard will ultimately reveal that. If he has misled the House on that matter, he has now corrected his own record.

Are there new points?

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, my point of privilege relates to the comments that are about to be forthcoming from the member who has warned us of these comments.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Bradley: We were under the impression—

The Acting Chairman: Order. I would say to the member for St. Catharines I can hardly rule on things that may be forthcoming.

Mr. Bradley: On what he said then.

The Acting Chairman: On what he has already said, how have your privileges been abused?

Mr. Bradley: My privileges have been abused because these people came disguised as representatives of the Ontario Federation of Labour when it is quite obvious from what the member for Hamilton East said that they were simply operatives for the NDP. This is why the official labour union movement has so little influence in this province. They simply play games and have the NDP send them out to the other caucuses to gather information for them.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Bradley: And then they debrief.

The Acting Chairman: Order. That is interesting, but it is not a point of privilege.

Interjections.

Mr. Wrye: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I listened to my friend across the way with interest in terms of freedom of information. I hope the member for Hamilton East will wish to name all the operatives who came into our offices and give us the number of their membership in the NDP.

The Acting Chairman: That is not a point of order. Now that we have disposed of all that, we have two minutes before the stacked vote.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I want to—

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: I march in step all the time with them.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: We obviously bothered some people. Before we adjourn the debate for the evening, may I make the point that I offered—if they would stop the heckling, which they started—not to read those comments, and I only read one of them. If they will calm down a bit, maybe we will not read the other three to them.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order. We are on Bill 141, part IX, subsection 33(1), on an amendment moved by the member for Hamilton East. May I continue to have his comments on the amendment.

Mr. Mackenzie: Yes, you may, Mr. Chairman.

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not know why the member for St. Catharines was so upset. They did not have anything on him anyway, and he was not one of the questions on the list.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order. I will ask the member for Hamilton East to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Mackenzie, the debate was adjourned.

The Acting Chairman: By agreement, there is a stacked vote at 10:15 p.m., a 10-minute bell.
10:25 p.m.

The committee divided on Mr. Mancini's amendment to subsection 33(1) of the act, as set

out in section 1 of the bill, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 30; nays 52.

The Acting Chairman: For the information of the House, there was one earlier amendment, which I understand was carried at the time and not stacked. This was the only matter stacked before us this evening.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Deputy Speaker: I beg to inform the House that, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in his chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following are the titles of the bills to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 1, An Act to amend the County Courts Act;

Bill 4, An Act to amend the Wine Content Act;

Bill 6, An Act to amend the Corporations Information Act;

Bill 11, An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act;

Bill 12, An Act to amend the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Act;

Bill 13, An Act to amend the Ombudsman Act;

Bill 14, Arboreal Emblem Act;

Bill 18, An Act to amend the Justices of the Peace Act;

Bill 27, An Act to amend the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act;

Bill 44, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act;

Bill 100, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law respecting the Organization, Operation and Proceedings of Courts of Justice in Ontario;

Bill 122, An Act to revise the Architects Act;

Bill 123, An Act to revise the Professional Engineers Act;

Bill Pr1, An Act to revive Moramos Holding Club of Essex;

Bill Pr4, An Act to incorporate Central Baptist Seminary and Bible College;

Bill Pr11, An Act to incorporate the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation;

Bill Pr18, An Act to revive Zeta Psi Elders Association of Toronto;

Bill Pr42, An Act respecting the City of Peterborough.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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No. 34

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 3, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 3, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ANNIVERSARY OF DUNLOP CLOSING

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I know the House will be interested to recall that it was 14 years ago this week that the Dunlop plant in the riding of Riverdale closed.

I had a call from Phil Japp, the head at that time of the United Rubber Workers of America local that tried to fight the battle against plant closings on that occasion. In the midst of the continuous plant closings in Ontario I know we would want to recall that particular event and to deplore, if I may say so, the lack of advance in legislative protection for workers that has taken place since the enactments of the provisions of the Employment Standards Act after that particular disastrous event.

BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege or something: Perhaps you will permit me to draw members' attention to the fine bicentennial publication of the Welland Guardian-Express, which I have distributed to their seats.

It shows not only the importance of the Welland-Port Colborne area in the history of the province but also the quality of the craftsmanship and the journalism of the workers who have been on strike and locked out by the Thomson chain's Welland-Port Colborne Tribune for almost 20 months now.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, many people in this province, particularly those in our larger urban areas, feel life has stood still on the family farm. Many of them have a romanticized view of life on the farm, seeing it as a haven from the stresses and strains of contemporary life.

But as the members of this House know, the farm is not immune to these modern pressures. It has not escaped the successive waves of change that have engulfed our society over the last three decades. Indeed, the people of Ontario's farms are subject to the same pressures and the same

demands as the rest of society, plus a range of others that are unique to their lifestyle.

Nowhere does the weight of this responsibility fall more heavily than on the shoulders of farm women. Rural women are today finding themselves attempting to retain the values and the advantages of traditional farm life while at the same time trying to cope with unprecedented social, psychological and economic challenges and opportunities.

The agrarian rural community Ontario knew 30 years ago has evolved into a complex rural society with larger and more highly capitalized farms. Agriculture today is a big business that requires the use of sophisticated technology and sound investment and management decisions.

The population shifts in our rural areas have been dramatic. Rural people made up only 18.2 per cent of Ontario's population in 1981, compared to 29.8 per cent in 1951. During those 30 years, the number of people on our farms decreased from more than 700,000 to about 390,000.

We wanted to examine these changes and their implications, and to document and assess the priorities and aspirations of the rural women of this province. For these reasons, my ministry undertook this study and commissioned this report, *Women in Rural Life—The Changing Scene*, which I am tabling today in English and in French.

The profile of today's rural women is much like that of their urban counterparts. They have the same goals and desires and face many of the same problems. They wish to be recognized and treated as equals in the home and the business world, both on and off the farm. The majority of rural women today work outside the home, either full-time or part-time. More than 70 per cent of farm women in the 20-to-44 age bracket are in the paid work force. Like women everywhere, many have to hold off-farm jobs out of economic necessity. Some choose to work for reasons of career advancement and personal fulfilment.

Added to the pressures of being homemaker, mother and wage earner, women on the farm work right alongside their husbands as labourers and managers of their farm businesses. It is no wonder rural women feel there are not enough

hours in the day. Estimates of the amount of time they spend on child-rearing and homemaking, farm work and off-farm employment vary from 80 to over 100 hours a week. For today's rural women, life on the farm is not only a full-time job; it is two or more full-time jobs.

Activities such as taking courses or enrolling children in recreational or special programs are complicated by the lack of time available for these. Also, farm women often have to drive long distances to participate, further cutting into what little leisure time they may have. Moreover, this isolation complicates the provision of support programs that people in larger urban centres can sometimes take for granted—day care, health and social services, such as family counselling.

These women also have justifiable concerns about their financial security and their equality in the eyes of the law. They want to be recognized as full partners or, in some cases, sole proprietors of farming enterprises. They want an end to being treated as appendages of their husbands, especially by financial institutions.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Then why does the government not allow them partnerships?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The rest of the members of the House are interested in this subject. I wish the member for Rainy River were as interested as we are.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The minister is being hypocritical. He will not allow them to be partners with their husbands on the farm.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The report documents the frustrations and the stresses of rural life today. The rural women participating in this study were quite candid about the challenges they and the members of their families face. I believe this study will be tremendously helpful to the government in many areas of policy formation and the setting of our priorities.

I am pleased to announce a provincial farm women's conference, as recommended in the report, will be held on June 21, 1984, here in Toronto at the Constellation Hotel. Among those attending will be the rural women and groups who submitted briefs or made presentations at regional meetings during the study. In addition, we will invite representatives from Ontario's rural, agricultural and agribusiness organizations, as well as those from government agencies, educational institutions and research groups involved in women's issues.

This conference will provide a forum for rural women to discuss the findings and recommenda-

tions of the report and to develop and debate further proposals and directions. We in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food believe we all have an obligation to ensure that the rural women of Ontario can share equally and justly in the society to which they and their families continue to make such tremendous contributions. The report and the provincial conference for farm women are, I believe, reflections of this belief.

2:10 p.m.

STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to take a moment today to acknowledge, on behalf of all the members of the House, the highly successful model parliament that was conducted here yesterday by the Ontario Secondary School Students' Association. By all accounts, and I emphasize the word "all," the day was more successful than its organizers had hoped for. I know the real members of the assembly were delighted with and, I think, sir, in some cases, just a little in awe of the organization and presentation skills of these bright and energetic young people.

We all, therefore, would like to thank the OSSSA for its support of the day, particularly for all the advance work done before the one-day mock parliament. We would also like to thank the Ontario Secondary School Headmasters' Council for its co-operation in allowing the students to dedicate their time to the preparations.

Somewhere in the gallery today is Brian Amero from Cambridge, whose extended efforts as leader of the OSSSA committee organizing the event over the past several months cannot be sufficiently appreciated by the members here, the student members yesterday and the headmasters as well. With Brian are some students from across Ontario who put much time and energy and a good deal of spirit into the model parliament project. They truly did make it a model in the best sense of the word and we welcomed them yesterday and welcome them again today. We are confident their principals and teachers will not allow their work on this project to detract from their year's grades as the students go home to end their term.

My ministry was delighted to have been able to sponsor this first model parliament of students to have taken place here in this chamber in a very long time. This very special bicentennial activity was made possible through the co-operation of the Speaker and his staff, the clerks and the pages. In this regard, the students would like me

especially to thank Mr. McFedries of the Clerk's office who guided them through the procedurally flawless day.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, might I, on behalf of my colleagues in the Liberal Party, associate myself with the very excellent and timely remarks of the Minister of Education. She has spoken very appropriately on this matter.

I was here yesterday to take in some of the proceedings and, like all other members who attended, I was very impressed. For example, I was impressed that a connection of mine, who served as Premier for the day, answered a question on at least one occasion and deferred on others. We in the Liberal Party believe it was a first-class performance. They were, as the Minister of Education noted, a model to all and sundry.

I must say in resuming my seat that as I looked at so many of those very bright young men and women, I thought of how they might do what some of the rest of us did and see if they can proceed directly from school to this place.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I was able to spend some time here yesterday and I was delighted to see the assembly in action. It was an interesting assembly for a number of reasons. First, the assembly was more representative of the province than we are. That is a statement all of us have to bear in mind. Second, they were here not only for question period, but they were here, all of them, for the whole day, which itself is something of a—

An hon. member: Including the Premier.

Mr. Rae: That is right, including the Premier.

I want to congratulate the people who participated, but I also want to suggest to the minister, and I hope she will take this suggestion seriously, that we should be looking at a week during which the student parliament can really be given a chance to work at a time when we are not sitting, or even when we are sitting if the government does not have anything for us to do, as has been the case the last few weeks. I hope the minister will take that suggestion seriously. This should not be a one-shot thing. It should be the beginning of something and not the end of something, because I felt it was a very exciting experience and adds very much not only to the educational experience of students but also to their political experience, which is extremely important.

Congratulations to the students and organizers for a wonderful day. Let us hope we can repeat it in a bigger and better way next year.

VISITORS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I would like to ask all members of the Legislature Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the mayor of Lahr, West Germany, His Worship Mayor Werner Dietz, and Mrs. Dietz.

Mayor Dietz is visiting the city of Belleville, Lahr's twin city, to arrange "friendship flights" between the two cities this coming August and is the guest today of the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil).

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that in the gallery we also have the mayor of Belleville, His Worship George Zegouras.

DEBRIEFING AFTER INTERVIEW

Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege.

Last Thursday, after question period, I received a delegation of three representatives of the Ontario Federation of Labour in my office. They were Jan Morrell, Cathie Hall and Sheila Kelly. I met with them at their request and I was pleased to do so.

They indicated that the purpose of their visit was to discuss with me details of their current campaign for women and affirmative action.

It was with considerable consternation and distress that I read in the Hansard report of the legislative debate that took place in this chamber on Tuesday evening that it is entirely probable my interview with the OFL representatives was taped and was later debriefed to members of the New Democratic Party caucus.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Martel: What do they call that in the United States?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Dirty tricks.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Scrivener: According to the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), and I am quoting from his remarks as reported in Hansard: "I will qualify it to the extent that I sat in for two hours on a debriefing. It was absolutely excellent. There were 97 women and three men there plus officials of the Ontario Federation of Labour. It was a debriefing of the people who were canvassing. They taped some of it."

At no time was I informed by the OFL delegation in my office that the conversation was being taped or that it would be reported to the NDP caucus.

If the account as reported by the member for Hamilton East and as recorded in Hansard is true, then I have to express to you, Mr. Speaker, my shock, consternation and disappointment at the discourtesy of this action, not only to me but to other members of this Legislature who were interviewed, and to protest the obvious breach of my privilege as a member of the Legislature.

Therefore, I would ask you to investigate this matter and place your ruling concerning privilege before this House.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, it is not often I join with the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) in expressing a concern, but I think it is a legitimate point of privilege.

Apparently, what has happened is that first of all, we received a letter dated March 12, 1984, from Cliff Pilkey, president of the OFL. Mr. Pilkey asked that representatives of all parties meet with and discuss certain issues with a delegation from the OFL affirmative action campaign group of the autumn of 1983.

As a representative of one riding in this province, I felt an obligation to chat with those people about the issues. I was under the distinct impression that Ontario Federation of Labour representatives were in my office, not secret operatives from the New Democratic Party.

I listened to the member for Hamilton East. All members of this House will remember he is the member who expressed such concern about Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. I heard the member for Hamilton East talk about a debriefing session. In other words, those representatives did not go to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) or to the Liberal critic for the field of labour. At least some of the them hightailed it immediately to the office of the Labour critic for the New Democratic Party for a two-hour debriefing session.

He also mentioned the use of tapes. Apparently, they have tapes, transcripts and so on. The point is we have approached the Ontario Federation of Labour, as a group that speaks for those under its jurisdiction in the province. I hope the president, Cliff Pilkey, will dissociate himself from this activity which involves an immediate debriefing for the NDP caucus as a result of the discussions that were held with us.

What will happen as a result is the avenues of consultation that are available with the government caucus and the caucus of the official opposition will disappear because the NDP has used the Ontario Federation of Labour, much to the chagrin, no doubt, of Cliff Pilkey.

I think the member for Hamilton East should apologize to the House.

The Acting Speaker: On this matter of personal privilege I will allow one more speaker, the member for Hamilton East, realizing that the chair is not in a position to act on this matter.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, let me make it clear there are absolutely no apologies from the member for Hamilton East.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Another class act.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Just resign.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I trust the member for Hamilton East will not be disconcerted by these outbursts.

Mr. Mackenzie: The only thing I am amazed at is the sensitivity. I do not think I have ever had as much fun in my life.

I want to make it clear that some people do not listen very well. What I said in this House was that I had the privilege of sitting in for two hours on a debriefing that was done by the organization. It was not something we had anything to do with, nor were they in my office other than for an interview such as was done with the rest of the members.

Also, I never indicated they had taped any of the sessions with the members. I would not know that. If they had, it would be serious.

Mr. Wrye: Read the words. You said it.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member has the floor.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Will all members give the member for Hamilton East an opportunity to speak on this point of personal privilege.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would also recommend to all honourable members of the House that it is the right of organizations to ask a series of questions of members of this House when dealing with something as important as equal pay—

Mr. Bradley: It does not say "NDP" on this. It says "OFL".

Mr. Mackenzie: Does the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) want me to say what he had to say?

The Acting Speaker: Order. We want to get on with question period. We have a busy afternoon. Will the member for Hamilton East please complete his statement.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: I think I have the floor on the point of order. If members had read the notice that was sent to them requesting the meeting with all members of the House, they would know it listed they were going to have a debriefing following the sessions.

Mr. Bradley: With the NDP.

Mr. Mackenzie: No. The purpose of that—

Mr. Bradley: What does it say in here? Tell the truth.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for St. Catharines will resume his seat.

Mr. Bradley: Tell the truth.

Mr. Mackenzie: There is some defensiveness down there, and well there should be.

The Acting Speaker: I do not want a long speech. The member can close off at this point.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am being a little provoked, Mr. Speaker.

All I want to say is that to the best of my knowledge, there was no taping of any member. There was a debriefing, which is legitimate, so the organization would know the position of the members of this House. It was done very well and thoroughly. That is what I sat in on, and I have nothing to apologize for.

Interjections.

Mr. Bradley: On a new point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker: May I suggest the member bring it up at some other time?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for St. Catharines on a very brief two-second point of privilege.

Mr. Bradley: I will make it very brief. The member for Hamilton East said it was understood there would be a debriefing session. Nowhere in this letter from Cliff Pilkey does it talk about a debriefing session for the NDP. They are using them as NDP operatives. In the United States they would be condemning Nixon for that.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: I recognize the member for York South (Mr. Rae) in response to this point and then I am leaving it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, obviously there are a lot of members who do not want their publicly expressed views with respect to women's issues to be publicly known outside the framework of this Legislature. The members—

Mr. Wrye: It was a private meeting.

Mr. Rae: What is private about equal pay for work of equal value, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker: Order. I have called order many times and members—

Mr. Riddell: Tell him to sit down. They have done the labour movement a disservice.

Mr. Martel: Oh, you should talk.

Mr. Riddell: The labour movement should throw you out.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I am not being heard. I have called order now. If the member for York South will just take a few moments, then we can begin with question period.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out two facts in response to the alleged information put on the record by the member for St. Catharines.

It is my understanding the Liberal and Conservative women's caucuses were invited to the lobby and the conference. It is also my understanding the debriefing was public and was on a publicly released agenda. There is nothing private or secretive about what took place. What took place is a matter of public record, and members should not be ashamed of their publicly expressed views.

2:30 p.m.

Ms. Copps: On a new point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: It is quite clear to all members who participated in the discussions with the Ontario Federation of Labour, myself included, that the member misled the House. I am proud of all the opinions I have stated to the federation and elsewhere, but the member for Hamilton East today has misled the House by stating that the debriefing was a public invitation tendered by the federation. He should withdraw that.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) will withdraw the statement that has just been made. The member is aware of the rules of the House and of the terms just used in her remarks. I ask her to understand the parliamentary rules of this Legislature. The terms she just used are not acceptable in this House. Would she please withdraw them.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, if the member is not telling the truth I have no other recourse than to call him to question. He has misled the House and I stand by those remarks.

The Acting Speaker: Order. This is not acceptable. The member for Hamilton Centre surely does not want to have the Speaker order the use of the new sword of the Sergeant at Arms.

I would make a final request to the member for Hamilton Centre to withdraw that statement or I will have no choice but to name her.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I cannot and I will not withdraw.

The Acting Speaker: I have no choice. Sergeant at Arms, I must name the member for Hamilton Centre.

Ms. Copps was escorted from the chamber by the Sergeant at Arms.

Interjections.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The Acting Speaker: If it is not a point of order, the chair is not prepared to listen. You have one sentence to introduce your point of order.

Mr. Martel: You might have done that with your own member. Or did you forget that? You let her read a whole statement. Do not play games.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I was simply going to say I do not understand why the Liberal caucus is so sensitive about this. Could the Speaker verify whether this incident was more serious than when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) went to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and spoke to him privately after the Suncor affair? He revealed the conversation when it was supposed to be private.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment with respect to the proceedings yesterday in the district court in Buffalo on the hearing on the S area dump.

Is the minister aware now that his agents, his lawyer and experts, completely botched that case? They were seen as being poorly prepared and putting forward a position that did not conform with his own in this House. Indeed, the judge had to adjourn the case early to allow the minister's representatives to fully inform themselves of the facts.

What is the minister going to do to rectify the damage done yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the position of the government was stated very clearly in the statement I made to this House with respect to

what we expected our lawyers in Washington would do in undertaking the representations on the S area site. The points the member is referring to, I believe, emanated from a letter that was received from Pollution Probe, which indicated they were not satisfied with the representations we had made up until that time. That was the first day of the case.

The case has not been completed yet and my understanding is the matter was handled extremely well today. I cannot speak for yesterday, but we are monitoring it on a regular basis and I have no reason whatsoever to intervene at this point in any direct or indirect fashion with our lawyers in this matter. I am satisfied and confident they will put forward the position of the province in a most adequate and acceptable fashion.

The case is not concluded or completed yet, so I think it is very presumptuous for any organization to be making statements about the capacity or the ability of our representatives within an hour or two hours after the case actually got under way. I just do not think that is fair, equitable or reasonable.

Mr. Peterson: It is not just one source; it is many sources who sat in that hearing yesterday and were embarrassed for the minister and his ministry because they blew the case.

Yesterday, Mr. Sunderland, his lawyer, and a Ministry of the Environment expert, Dr. MacKay, expressed their feeling that the containment program offered in that situation was adequate—in other words, supporting the Hooker position—as opposed to the minister's words in this House, and I quote back to him: "We do not accept that containment for several decades, possibly even hundreds of years, provides adequate protection for the very important Niagara River. We shall, therefore, request physical removal of the S area contaminants."

How can the minister put forward one position in this House not 20 days ago, on April 10, and then have his agents, his representatives, his spokesmen, put forward a different position in that court yesterday? How can he talk out of both sides of his mouth at the same time?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We are not talking out of both sides of our mouths at all on this. The matter in question here with respect to the position this government took some few days ago in connection with the S area site is totally consistent; we have not changed our position.

We have requested that the site be excavated and that the contaminated material be removed. There is no difference of opinion between the

government, my ministry and the lawyers who are representing us in the courts in New York state, and I want to make that abundantly clear. There is nothing inconsistent about that, and I can say nothing further on this matter to the Leader of the Opposition. Why does he not wait until he sees the results of our representations?

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the minister's counsel in New York are saying the containment as proposed by Hooker is satisfactory or not? What is the answer to that question? Is the minister saying it is unsatisfactory or is he saying it is satisfactory?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, our whole case is predicated on the view that the position the Occidental Chemical Corp., formerly known as Hooker Chemicals, has negotiated at the present time, which is to leave the contaminated soil in the site, is inadequate. Our position and the position of our lawyer—and I have heard nothing that contradicts this up to this time—has been that the soil must be removed in order to make sure this site is going to be completely safe under all circumstances. I hope I have clarified that.

Mr. Peterson: The minister in response to the earlier question said things were going well today but he was not sure about yesterday, implying he is informed of what is going on today but not of what went on yesterday.

How does the minister explain the fact that I just got a note this moment that the case was closed this morning early because the Minister of the Environment's expert witness, Dr. Geesach, was not prepared? How can he put forward a case in the court when his experts and his counsel are not prepared?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that the press release a number of those statements came from was a letter sent to my office. I thought the letter was relatively confidential, but I understand it was given wide release immediately following that, before I had an opportunity to respond. The comments in that release were made within hours after the court actually went into session and the representations actually started on the part of our legal firm.

I think it is totally improper for the Leader of the Opposition to be interfering at this time in a process that is barely under way. I have every confidence that we are handling this thing in a most appropriate fashion. The position of my ministry with respect to the removal of that contaminated soil has not changed. Additional

submissions will be made later this month. The matter has not wound down or been completed as of today.

Further discussions are to be held with respect to this matter. Further briefs will be presented. I think our case will be made in a most adequate fashion. I have every confidence that will be the case.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). I just caught a fleeting glimpse of her sneaking around the back. Is she there?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Does the honourable member wish to stand down his question until the minister returns?

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps she is within hearing. I am not sure whether she is behind—did she come in? I cannot see her.

The Acting Speaker: Does the member wish to stand it down until the minister returns?

Mr. Peterson: I will stand down the question until she returns. I assume she is coming back. Her papers are still there.

EARLY RETIREMENT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Premier. I know the camera is not on him, but I wonder if I could have his attention. I know there are no cameras going, but I wonder if the Premier would mind paying some attention to the question.

The Premier may be aware that Canadian General Electric announced yet another plant closure in Toronto yesterday affecting nearly 300 workers. I wonder whether he would explain the contradiction between two recent statements made by members of his government. Just a few weeks ago, I asked the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) a question with respect to early retirement and the adjustment benefits that were going to be paid to workers who had been affected by these tremendous changes. I am referring particularly to the problem of older workers.

Quoting from Hansard of March 27, the Minister of Labour said, "While perhaps there has been no public response to the problem, there has been a great deal of study, concern and proposals put forward and it has been discussed at a very high level in this government."

I wonder whether the Premier can square that statement with one made just the other day by a government spokesman who responded to a number of concerns expressed about older workers at a press conference. I am quoting from the Globe and Mail of Tuesday: "...a government

spokesman acknowledged yesterday that a recent pension reform policy paper released by Mr. Grossman on April 18 does not address issues of concern to older laid-off workers. 'These are relatively new issues, so we have not looked at them,' said John Ilkiw, a senior budget adviser in the government's pension policy unit."

Is anything going on for older workers or not? The Minister of Labour says there is and Mr. Ilkiw says there is not. Which is it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the member's question is yes.

Mr. Rae: The Premier can laugh and be cute and clever. He can try to do all those things and perhaps at times he will even succeed. Earlier this week, the Premier said he was sympathetic to the problems of older workers who have been devastated by the changes going through the province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Question.

Mr. Rae: If the Premier is sympathetic, exactly what is the government doing? Why was there nothing in the recent paper by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) on the question of some assistance to the workers who have been affected by these changes? There was not a word, not a peep about the need for earlier retirement in 1984.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect to the member, he needs a new set of bifocals or something. First, I was not laughing. Second, I answered his question very concisely. The member asked whether the Ministry of Labour was looking into this question and I answered yes.

Mr. Rae: That was not the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was the question.

Mr. Rae: It was not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, can the Premier give us some assurance that this whole matter of permanent layoffs and early retirement for older workers will be dealt with in the Treasurer's budget on May 15?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any assurance as to what the budget will contain on any issue; it is confidential.

Mr. Rae: The recent annual report of Canadian General Electric showed that on the appliance side, which is where these workers are working today, there was an increase in profit from \$38 million in 1982 to approximately \$52 million in 1983.

There is a very real concern in the community at large that companies are making profits at the same time as they are rationalizing and that the workers themselves are getting nailed time and time again in community after community because there has been no major redistribution towards the workers who are taking the brunt of all this change.

How does the Premier square the statement by Mr. Ilkiw that nothing is being done because it is a new problem with the statement by the Minister of Labour that there have been discussions at the highest level? Have there been discussions at the highest level, and what is being done for these workers who are being affected by these changes?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I answered that question right at the outset. Yes, there are discussions.

Mr. Rae: The government is so out of touch, it is really going to start to pay for it.

The Acting Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: It is so out of touch with what is going on out there.

Mr. Foulds: And so damned complacent too.

Mr. Rae: It is going to suffer for it one day; I do not know when, but it really is.

The Acting Speaker: Question.

DAY CARE

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Deputy Premier concerning day care.

At a time when there are literally tens of thousands of men and women whose children are in need of adequate day care because they are in the work force, how can the Deputy Premier justify the fact that the 1983-84 projected budget for full- and part-time day care for all ages is only \$4 a week per child whose mother is working, even if all the funding went for children under six instead of all ages? How does he feel about the adequacy of that funding for day care?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of child care is a very high priority item. Certainly I wanted to mention that to the honourable member. There were references made to it in the speech from the throne and we will be proceeding. In fact, I am just back now from a meeting with the federal minister responsible for the status of women where that was on our agenda this morning as well.

Mr. Rae: I would like to quote from the report that the Deputy Premier's colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) tabled

just today. On page 17, speaking very directly about the question of day care, he said:

"A lack of baby-sitting facilities and temporary child care hampers farm women at peak periods of operation. There is a need for some type of temporary help at these times. Women complain that they were unable to accompany their husbands to farm meetings or participate in OMAF day or evening programs and short courses because of a lack of baby-sitters, either at home or at the event."

There are other statements in there about the complete inadequacy of day care programs in many communities across the province.

How does the Deputy Premier feel about that kind of statement in the report, that condemnation of the inadequacy of the government's programs with respect to day care? What is he going to do about it to see that we have day care that is affordable, accessible and genuinely there for very young children and older children, kids today who are being left and neglected by a government that should be doing something for these kids and the parents who need to work to provide for their children?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I repeat, I attach great importance to this whole question of child care. It is a very important matter to continue to address so as to give some substance to the whole concept of equality of access to the work place. There is no doubt it is seen by many people, including the lady who was the author of this report, as a shared concern.

2:50 p.m.

I remind the member that the quality and the availability of day care are being addressed now in so far as the statement in the speech from the throne is concerned and we will have more to say about this in due course.

As the member knows, the Coalition for Better Day Care will be here on Monday making some presentations to various members of the Legislature. I have already made arrangements, along with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) and other of my colleagues of the government, to meet with the leadership of the coalition on Monday.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I hope that when the Deputy Premier meets with the coalition on Monday he is prepared to offer them more than just a number of sweet words and expressions of concern.

Given the fact that this government instituted in the last provincial budget something called the social services maintenance tax, which raised almost \$300 million last year and which will raise

double that this year, is the Deputy Premier prepared, along with his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services, to recommend to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and to the cabinet that some of this money be used to provide immediate subsidized day care spaces? This is such a crying need throughout Ontario, but particularly in Metropolitan Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, our approach will be an overall approach. I certainly shared some observations this morning at a consultation in Ottawa after my meeting with the federal minister, when I invited those who are interested in this whole situation, this whole service area, to start to consider new partnerships in so far as the provision of child care is concerned, arrangements in which we would involve the community.

I recognize it as a very high priority item with respect to the discharge of my particular responsibilities. We have already recognized this and we have said so in the speech from the throne. I think the contribution of many people with respect to the review that is currently going on will be valuable as we determine new directions in this very important area.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I will presume in my question that the minister is aware of events in the Metropolitan Toronto area, an area that has been presumed to be well served by day care in comparison with the remarks made by my leader on rural access to day care.

I am presuming he is aware that there is now some discussion at the Metropolitan Toronto level of actually tightening up the whole question of who is eligible for subsidized day care because of the impossibility of getting enough spaces for all the people who are now eligible for subsidized day care under Canada assistance plan definitions. In fact, only the poorest of the poor will be eligible for subsidized day care, and the people the minister is talking about who are going out to work will not have access to day care.

Will the minister tell me specifically, and not in the generalities he has talked about, what he intends to do about that very fact? Instead of more people getting subsidies, more people getting access, in places such as Toronto as well as in many other areas they will be restricting the access. What does he intend to do specifically about that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made the point quite clearly in response to the main question that, since assuming these particular responsibilities, I have had meetings with a number of individuals and organizations. I

recognize the overall importance of the provision of this service, and I am aware of the information the member for Scarborough West has shared with me. After we have completed the meetings that are currently under way and the review referred to in the speech from the throne, I will be prepared to share further statements with respect to developments.

SCIENCE EDUCATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister is back here, and I apologize if I implied that she sneaked out. I am delighted to see her walk back.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are forgiven.

Mr. Peterson: I am quite aware of that, and I appreciate it. I saw her there.

The minister is no doubt aware of the document of her colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) called Economic Transformation: Technological Innovation and Diffusion in Ontario, which deals with the structural changes in our economy and the need for people qualified with technological and scientific skills to make those economic transformations and the new thrusts we must put into that area.

She is no doubt aware as well of the Science Council of Canada report, which was severely critical of the scientific training that our young people are receiving not only in this province but across the rest of the country as well.

Why is her ministry so out of sync with her colleague the Treasurer and with other experts who see these great changes sweeping through our society and who recognize that we will need scientifically trained people to manage them?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we are out of sync at all. We have been leading the direction. It was the Ontario Ministry of Education and its minister that persuaded other ministers of education to participate in a critical examination of science education across Canada more than five years ago.

We were informed at the time that this excellent study would be carried out if we co-operated and that within two years we would have the results of the study of the Science Council of Canada. I felt this was absolutely perfect. We were in the process of redesigning the secondary school science program and we knew we would be doing so at about that time.

We waited patiently. I received numerous apologetic missives from the honourable member's predecessor, Dr. Smith, outlining his grave concern that it took so much time to get this study done. It took so much time that we had to begin

redesigning the science program without the assistance of the Science Council of Canada. It is absolutely astonishing that we have done exactly the kinds of things the science council is directing without its telling us.

As a result of the increased number of mandatory credits, we are persuading young people to participate in science education at the secondary level—for all students. Surely that is the appropriate first step towards finding the kinds of directions those marvellous people at the science council tell us are necessary. That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Peterson: I assume the minister's position is that it is a federal responsibility for education rather than her own and that she is delegating it to someone else to show leadership.

Why is the minister decades out of it? Is she aware of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions report published in 1984, this year, that refers to the curriculum guidelines of her ministry used in the schools of Ontario today? I will refresh her memory. Biology guidelines were created in 1963, 21 years old; biology, grade 13, created in 1969, 15 years old; chemistry, 1965, 19 years old; chemistry, 1966, 18 years old; geology, 1963, 21 years old; physics, 1966, 18 years old; science, intermediate division, 1978, six years old.

The minister is trying to teach with knowledge of 20 years ago. That is her leadership. She is the one who is failing in her leadership. Why has she not taken the responsibility to show the leadership in this most critical area?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I just told the member precisely why we had not done it before. We were awaiting the results of the study of the Science Council of Canada. When they did not do it—

Mr. Peterson: We have been waiting for 20 years—for two decades.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have only been the minister since 1978, so the member cannot lay that one on me.

We have been trying since that time to provide the leadership in science education. We did not get the assistance from the science council that we thought we were going to get and we proceeded with our own review. It is in process now. That is precisely what I was trying to tell the member. If he did not understand, I will be delighted to invoke the assistance of some scientist to improve his hearing.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, in conversations with those who are on the front line in the

delivery of the service in education, the teachers, I am told they have found these outdated guidelines to be of very little use to them. They have had to invoke their own experimental curriculum guidelines and on an ad hoc basis so they could have an updated curriculum.

In view of the fact that the minister should not have to rely on the federal authority, the municipal authority or anybody else, what took her ministry so long to take its own initiative to develop these guidelines? They have been needed for years because people have been talking about the need for great advances in science and technology. She should not blame someone else. Where was the minister's leadership?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question. I am sorry the honourable member did not understand my answer, but I thought it was very clear.

3 p.m.

PURCHASE OF OPP BOATS

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General on the boat purchasing policy of his ministry.

In his replies to the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) on Monday and Tuesday, he indicated to the House that the longer warranty on the boat was one of the reasons Grew was favoured over Mason.

Is he aware the bid set or the tender form did not even specify a minimum warranty for the boats? If that is the case, would he indicate to us now whether he intends to withdraw the arrangements he has made with the other company?

Mr. Shymko: I think the ship is sinking.

Mr. Boudria: I think it has sunk already.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on the matter the honourable member has asked about, there are and have been warranties on boats that are purchased. On the original boats supplied by the company the member has mentioned, the warranty was for one year. During that time, as the member for Lanark has said, a boat was returned to obtain a replacement under that warranty.

Mr. Bradley: At their cost.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I hear the member for St. Catharines saying "at their cost." Is that not what a warranty is? If I get a warranty, I would expect it would be at their cost. I want the member to understand the question and the answer.

The warranty on the Grew boat is for two years. There was a brochure sent by Mason that said "a five-year limited warranty." Having had some experience with those boats before and that experience not being satisfactory because it had to claim on the warranty, the purchasing department of the Ministry of the Solicitor General inquired into the terms of the warranty in the brochure. That warranty came back, and I think this is understandable, with one year on commercial applications. The boat was being purchased for a commercial application. The brochure was for recreational applications.

As one boat had a one-year warranty and the other a two-year warranty, it is understandable, when those specifications were asked about, that one is superior to the other—one year versus two years.

Mr. Boudria: The minister will know there was no such specification for minimum warranty. It was not in there.

The minister also indicated the distance to pick up the boat was one factor they looked at, given that the tender form asked for f.o.b. at source. In other words, the price was at the factory gate. Is it now the policy of his government that the closer a firm is to Toronto, the greater the chance of selling to the government? Is that the way the government is going to operate from now on?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I would just clarify that so the member understands that feature. The purchasing department received the documentation on the tender. That set out certain features. The purchasing department then received a recommendation from the Ontario Provincial Police transport branch. It was recommending the second lowest tender, which was \$319 over the lowest tender.

The purchasing department in its wisdom was naturally questioning why the second lowest tender was being accepted. When the reply came back, and there were numerous reasons the OPP was recommending the second lowest tender, one of those other features happened to be that there would have to be inspections made, the boat would have to be looked at from time to time and it would have to be delivered.

Bear in mind the OPP had already had to take back one boat to this particular boat company. They had to take all the equipment off it and send it back to be replaced, so that is another consideration in the long-run maintenance experience with this boat company.

They had experiences with which they were not satisfied as compared to the Grew company where they had not had the same experiences,

had been satisfied with their product and had a product—

Mr. Boudria: They gave them a new boat.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: The member says they gave them a new boat. This was under the warranty. They were dissatisfied with the product, so they got a new boat. After showing them the product was not satisfactory, after saying they wanted a replacement of the product because it was not satisfactory, I think it was an obligation. It was not because of generosity, as I heard the member for Lanark say and as the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) seems to be indicating, but because legally they had to do it.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, could the minister assure the people in Ottawa and throughout eastern Ontario that in the future there will be no further tariffs imposed by the Ontario government on the shipment of boats or other commodities from eastern Ontario to the rest of the Ontario market?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, there is no discriminatory policy now and there will not be. There is not a tariff, as the member says. If he understood it fully, he would know it was one of those facts, but an insignificant fact, on the boat purchase.

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister can clear up the misunderstanding and what I feel is a real injustice to Mr. Mason. When we talk about his boat and the problems they had with his boat, I do not know if people know the real reasons. Mr. Mason just telephoned my office to say some of the press he is getting is not very complimentary to his boat. The OPP sent the boat back due to cosmetic conditions. When they use the word “cracks”—

The Acting Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes. Would the minister correct any injustice done to Mr. Mason by saying there were cosmetic conditions for sending back the boat and not cracks, so it will not hurt Mr. Mason's business any further than it has?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, to answer the honourable member's reply and question, I did not raise the issue of problems with the boat. He raised the issue of problems with the boat. He is the member—

Mr. Martel: That is a low blow.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is all Doug's fault.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would ask the members—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is a pretty sight. This is a fight going on here.

The Acting Speaker: We have used this sword once today.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the member for Lanark asked why one bid was accepted over the other. I answered the question about those bids in very general terms. Many of those terms are the features which are looked at when buying a boat. We are looking at a difference of \$319. I think the purchasing department and the OPP looked at those two boats and assessed them. There is no reason in any of our tenders that the lowest tender always has to be accepted. There is always a provision that one looks at the best value for the dollar.

In this particular situation, the member for Lanark mentioned the faults that were in the boat and said they were insignificant faults as far as he and the supplier were concerned, and the boat was returned.

The OPP transport branch has 102 boats. They go out in all kinds of weather and in all kinds of water.

I want to read to the members the material on this particular boat, which the member has seen. He has seen my entire file on this. Here is the assessment this individual made to the OPP when he looked at the two boats. It says: “We now have three 22-foot Mason boats in our fleet that are equipped with these sliding-type hatches that continuously leak, causing wetness to the forward storage spaces and contents.”

3:10 p.m.

Then we go on further in this report by the OPP: “Grew boats are more durable, have excellent quality control and workmanship, are far superior to the 22-foot Mason boat and meet our specifications in every respect.”

On one more item—

The Acting Speaker: I do want the minister to be brief.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Further, it says: “In May 1982 we purchased a 22-foot Mason from Mason boat works. It was posted to our Midland detachment and, after only a short period, it started to show spider cracks in the gelcoat on both sides of the hull. This was immediately reported to Mr. Leon Mason and he stated that it was only cosmetic”—the writer then says “I disagree”—“but that they could repair it at the end of the 1982 boating season.”

These stress cracks grew more pronounced and the launch had to be replaced on warranty as it was within a year of purchase.

Here is a further reason the one boat was selected over the other, independent of where it was manufactured. I noted the 22-foot Mason launch at the 1984 Toronto boat show—

The Acting Speaker: The minister has gone into enough depth.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I just want to help the member who is helping his constituent.

HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE DELAYS

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister will know of the ongoing problem we have raised in this Legislature of overcrowding of hospitals. We recently completed a study of our survey of hospitals in the Niagara Peninsula and found, of the six hospitals we visited, there are 160 active treatment beds occupied by individuals waiting for long-term care. Four of the six hospitals are using hallways as holding areas for individuals needing admission to acute care beds, and some people are having to wait for between two and five days to get regular beds in the hospitals. Much of the elective surgery is being cancelled.

Although this problem is not specific to the Niagara Peninsula, I would like to ask what steps the minister is prepared to take to solve the problems in the peninsula. He must be well aware of them by now.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member realizes the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) keeps me very well informed on the situation in the Niagara Peninsula.

I am aware of the concerns that have been raised. I met with the board of one of the hospitals in that area fairly recently, and I have a meeting scheduled a little later this month with representatives of the district health council, which has presented me with a report with recommendations relating to that specific issue. Following that meeting, I hope I will be in a position to determine the most appropriate course of action.

It would be unfortunate if the impression were left that the situation the member describes is either constant or general across the province. Situations do arise in some communities from time to time in which a patient may have to wait for admission in an emergency department for a period of time. That does not necessarily mean there is a general shortage of beds. In some instances, it is a problem of bed allocations within the institution. To illustrate, on some

three different occasions when the matter of people waiting in hospital corridors, etc., was raised in Metropolitan Toronto, we did instantaneous surveys that revealed there were 1,000 empty beds at those times.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the minister trying to diminish a very real problem that exists in the Niagara region. I wonder if he is aware that, according to the information that was given to my leader and myself just last week by the executive director, the average waiting time to get into a chronic care bed in the Welland County General Hospital is 132 days. It is 234 days to get into an extended care bed. Almost every night people are kept in the emergency department—not occasionally, almost every night—because no active treatment beds are available. Sometimes there are as many as 14 patients overnight in the emergency department, where there is only one bathroom and one sink for washing both utensils and humans and no privacy there at all.

Does the minister not agree this kind of health service is well below the acceptable level? Does this not convince him that the 30 beds which are now closed down in the Welland County General Hospital ought to be put back in service immediately?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the concerns at the Welland County General Hospital. In fact, my parliamentary assistant met with members of the board and administration of that hospital within, I believe, the last two or three weeks and has reported to me on that meeting.

Mr. Rae: Nothing has happened.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not trying to minimize the problem. I am just trying to put it in a more balanced perspective than are those who are trying to exaggerate it. I recognize there is a problem at that hospital because of the distribution of long-term care beds in the peninsula. It is not necessarily simply a matter of shortages as much as it is of distribution or maldistribution of beds that have been put in place over the years. Within the last year we have approved additional long-term care beds that are not yet constructed and in operation, although they have been approved.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware of the proposals that have been made by the St. Catharines General Hospital, which I believe have subsequently been approved by the district health council, that would assist measurably in overcoming some of the health care

problems in the peninsula? Is he prepared to give an undertaking to assist in alleviating the problems that exist by approving those proposals, which I think would benefit immensely the chronic care situation as well as emergency care at the hospital?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say I am familiar in detail with those specific proposals. If they are contained in the district health council's report, I will be reviewing it between now and my meeting with the council later this month. If they are not, I am sure the district health council will raise them with me at the time of that meeting.

HATE LITERATURE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I will direct my question to the Solicitor General.

The minister is well aware of the concerns that have been expressed by members of all parties in this House about the problem of hate literature. Given that concern, I draw the minister's attention to an advertisement for three books by Avro Manhattan, which appeared in the book supplement of the *Globe and Mail* on April 21, 1984. I have sent a copy of this advertisement to the minister.

For the information of the members, the three books advertised are entitled, *Vietnam...Why Did We Go?*, *The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance*, and *The Vatican Billions*.

I gather from the advertising blurbs that the central theme of all these books is that the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church are involved in some gigantic conspiracy to attain world domination.

In one case it is insinuated that the Vatican was behind the assassinations of Presidents Diem and Kennedy. In another it claims, "The Roman Catholic institution is no Christian church!" The third promises to demonstrate "how the Popes stole the wealth of the world through the centuries," and "why the papacy claims ownership of the Americas."

3:20 p.m.

The advertisements alone strike me as being objectionable and inflammatory. Would the minister tell the House if his ministry or the Ministry of the Attorney General has received any complaints from the public about these books? If not, will the minister undertake to raise this matter with his colleague the Attorney General, with the aim of having this matter reviewed by the appropriate officials in the Ministry of the Attorney General?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. These are not on my reading list, nor are they, I guess, on the Book of the Month Club list.

The Attorney General is personally very concerned about this matter. The two of us have been putting together a group of individuals through the Ontario Provincial Police who will be spending their time exclusively on the terminology referred to generically as hate literature. I will bring this to their attention and to that of the people in the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, before these people go riding off in all directions on their white horses, would the Solicitor General and his colleague table in this Legislature just exactly what definition they have arrived at as to what constitutes hate literature? Perhaps we could all have a look. We might see that perhaps there are some things on our shelves that should be burned.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, if there is any definition, it will be that contained in any of the statutes of the jurisdiction of the day. The investigators will not go into areas other than those they think are within the definition.

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say something relating to a statement of the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), who I think is lurking somewhere in the environs. On April 27, he charged that a second-year student in the forestry and wildlife program at the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology was placed on a waiting list to enter the third year of the same program. He further charged that 70 students were qualified to enter this third year but only 15 places were available. I think the member wanted to make the point that it was the government's fault for not making it possible for all these students to complete their course of study.

As with the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), the member for London North has not got his facts completely straight. My ministry has been in contact with the registrar of the college—

Mr. Van Horne: Everybody is wrong except the minister, who is always right.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, no. The registrar of the college provided me with the factual information. It was not my information; it is the college's information.

I have been informed that the student in question is graduating from the second year of

the forestry technician program and is applying to the fish and wildlife technology program. The fish and wildlife technology program is a one-year program having graduation from the forestry technician program or a related natural resource program as a prerequisite for entrance.

This year there are 38 graduates from the forestry technician program, all of whom have applied to the fish and wildlife program, which has a capacity of 15 places. Since all 38 graduates met all the criteria for admission to this further program—not the completion of the same program—random selection was used for admission as the last resort.

It is obvious this program is popular for the students now enrolled at Sault College because only those 38 students applied to take the fish and wildlife program at Sault. No other students from any of the other 21 colleges have made applications there. Therefore the number of applicants was 38, not 70. Furthermore, the fish and wildlife program is also offered at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough, but not a single one of those 38 graduates of the Sault College program has applied to Sir Sandford Fleming.

As I have said repeatedly in this House in the past, the random selection process is used only as a last resort when all criteria for admission have been met and all the students are equally qualified. Individuals have complained about its use, but to this point the college community as a whole has not produced a better way of choosing candidates for a limited enrolment program.

I would remind all members that one of the main reasons for limited enrolment programs is in the first instance the availability of employment after graduation. If any member has interesting suggestions about alternatives to that last-resort activity, I will be very pleased to transmit them to the task force I appointed at the end of last year to look at means of admission to college programs. That task force is functioning at present.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In response to the comments of the minister that either I did not have my facts straight or I said something incorrect, the information provided to me and to my office by the student concerned, Brenda Gallagher from London, Ontario, who is taking that course in Sault Ste. Marie, was that the two-year forestry and wildlife program is a prerequisite for the wildlife and fishery program.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I said that.

Mr. Van Horne: If that is the case, why does the minister make it sound as if it does not matter? That is what the response she gave to this House suggests.

This student got the highest marks in the entire class. In spite of that and in spite of this being a prerequisite, she was still subject to the random selection. It does not make sense. The student did not understand it. If that is the information the minister has, then perhaps she and I should go to the administration at that college and see that they let the students know what the heck is going on, because somebody goofed.

TESTING OF BACKUP BATTERIES

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy regarding batteries. That might not sound like a very important topic, but the batteries that are the standby power in a nuclear plant perform a very important service. If there is a power failure, they provide the power source in the interim for the functions of many important parts of the plant in a shutdown.

On April 9, I asked the minister about the state of readiness of the class 1 emergency power supply batteries at the Bruce nuclear station. I reported then that Ontario Hydro did not give the batteries a full-load test five years after installation as required, and that certain maintenance procedures to ensure the batteries were in peak operation were not followed. I have since been in contact with Hydro and learned that certain batteries, which did not meet the test requirements and which could be defective, were shifted around inside Bruce instead of being replaced.

Instead of being an apologist for Ontario Hydro, would the minister look into the matter and come back with an adequate answer?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kerrio: We are headed in the right direction. Will the minister take with him the information I will now provide?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I will.

Mr. Kerrio: I am not finished. The minister is not getting off that easily. I am sure he will be interested in this. Hydro may not have been informing him of the full problem here, and that is the question I want to raise.

Hydro knows that the NAX 1500 batteries in the common unit are good and the EKR 1200s in unit 1 are fine. The batteries that failed to meet the standard, according to Hydro, were shifted to the main battery banks in unit 2. Because of the suggestion there may be batteries in that bank which will not provide the full voltage and necessary amperage to perform the function they

are placed there for, that unit needs to be tested as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Was there a question in that supplementary? If the question was whether I will take the information provided to me by the member, the answer is yes.

3:30 p.m.

BAIL VERIFICATION

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Secretary for Justice, and relates to the bail verification program. The provincial secretary will recall I addressed questions on this matter to him and his colleague the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) in the dying days of the last session in mid-December.

Then on February 10 the minister stated, "While it is anticipated that bail verification and supervision services will continue after September 1, an extensive review of existing programs will be undertaken."

In the minister's letter of March 6, 1984, to the directors of the various bail verification programs, he stated there were unwarranted fears, that there would be no change and that both the program content and funding arrangements would remain the same, and he put in the date of September 1.

On March 19, his colleague the Minister of Correctional Services advised each of the services that there would be no commitment to fund beyond the end of June 1984, and that the corrections funding would be terminated.

Because of the problems faced by these bail verification programs with respect to carrying out their programs, taking into account that the average period of bail supervision is something over four months, will the minister make a clear and concise statement as to his intention with respect to the funding of these programs to the end of June and to September 1, and the funding commitment after September 1?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I can indicate clearly that the funding for the bail verification programs across the province will continue beyond the end of June. Until the end of June they will be carried by the Ministry of Correctional Services, and beyond the end of June they will be carried by another ministry. That will take us up to September 1. I give the guarantee up to September 1.

Beyond September 1, we are not sure of the precise shape the bail verification program will take. At the moment we have an interministerial committee assessing that, a committee made up of the ministries involved in the justice field and

other ministries to determine the best shape of the bail verification program.

It is a program commenced at the time I was the Minister of Correctional Services, and there have been some evolutionary changes in the process in the interim. We want to make sure it is serving the public in the best possible way and is providing the maximum benefit for the dollars that are spent. That was precisely the reason the Minister of Correctional Services took the approach he did in December.

I can say the funding is secure until September 1. I expect very strongly that some shape of the bail verification program will continue beyond September. However, we do not and will not know the precise shape until the interministerial committee has reported to us.

Mr. Renwick: As I said, on February 10 the minister stated "it is anticipated that bail verification and supervision services will continue after September 1," and he referred to the extensive review and study. Has there been any consultation or does he intend to consult in any way with one or more of the 12 bail verification programs with respect to the refashioning or reshaping of those programs? Does he in any way, shape or form believe those bail verification programs will exist with their present staff and case loads, and the present important function they are serving in the community, beyond September 1?

Hon. Mr. Walker: The answer to the first question is no, and to the second question, yes. I will get to the third one in a moment.

In essence, what we are saying is consultation has not as yet occurred with the interministerial committee, which at the moment is basically consulting within the various ministries on the needs of a number of ministries. However, in due course there will be adequate consultation with a number, and perhaps all, of the bail verification units across the province.

As to the continuance beyond September 1, I am not prepared to give a commitment about the staffing and case load levels because that would presume I know exactly the shape it will take. The ministers in the justice field at the moment cannot tell the member that, so we must delay that part. However, I think it is fair to say that something will continue beyond September 1. It is just the shape of it we are not entirely sure of at the moment.

PETITIONS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned electors of Julian Reed, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right. Furthermore, in a democratic and multicultural society parents should have the right to send their children to schools of their choice without a financial penalty.

"We ask for your help in reducing the unfair burden of what, in effect, is double taxation. We seek a just public education policy that supports all schools deemed to be operating in the public interest."

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors of the ridings of Kitchener-Wilmot, Waterloo North and Kitchener, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right. The supporters of these schools also face a form of financial hardship. The parents of independent schools, while contributing millions of dollars in education taxes, have had to bear the full cost of their own schools. "This is unfair. We seek a just public education policy that supports all schools that provide future citizens a good education."

This is signed by 32 constituents in Kitchener-Wilmot, Waterloo North and Kitchener.

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors and residents of Guelph and Wellington South, respectfully petition for your support to redress a serious injustice in our current education policy and practice.

"The facts are simple. In the last five years parents who send their children to independent schools have contributed \$1 billion for education in Ontario without receiving a cent for the education of their own children. In fact, they have had to bear a double burden through fees and contributions for their own independent schools.

"Furthermore, in a democratic and multicultural society, parents should have the right to send their children to schools of choice without a financial penalty. This is recognized partially in the case of Catholic families with minor exceptions and fully in the case of Franco-Ontarians. It should apply equally to all."

It is signed by 188 constituents in support of independent schools in Wellington county.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 86 people from London North and surrounding ridings. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, urge that the unfair burden of double taxation be reduced for supporters of independent schools. These schools operate in the public interest. In a democratic multicultural society, choice in education should not endow some schools of choice with funding while denying the same rights to others."

I would add that the executive of the London Parental Christian School on Clarke Road in London presented this petition to me on behalf of those signing it.

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 793 people:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bills of Don Boudria, MPP, Prescott-Russell, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wines in small independent grocery stores."

M. le Président, je voudrais présenter la pétition suivante:

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien." Elle est signée par 793

personnes, qui apporte le total au-delà de 4,000 personnes.

That makes a total of more than 4,000 people who have signed those petitions.

SCHOOL BUSING

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have another petition, if I may:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned residents of Prescott-Russell, ratepayers of the Prescott and Russell County Board of Education, petition the Minister of Education to intervene on our behalf.

"A group of 10 families living east of the existing school boundaries dividing the Pleasant Corners Public School bus routes from those of the Plantagenet Public School were notified that the boundaries were going to be changed. Due to the increased enrolment of Pleasant Corners and the decrease in the enrolment in Plantagenet, it would be necessary to uproot our children and send them to Plantagenet school."

There is about another page of explanation, but I think the general thrust has been explained. This is signed by 53 residents of the constituency of Prescott-Russell.

3:40 p.m.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition, which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

It is signed by Charlotte Balmer of 55 Delwood Drive in Scarborough.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments pre-

sented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the City of Kitchener;

Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the Oakville Young Men's Christian Association—Young Women's Christian Association;

Bill Pr20, An Act to continue The Corporation of the Townships of Shackleton and Machin under the name of The Corporation of the Township of Fauquier-Strickland.

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the Oakville Young Men's Christian Association—Young Women's Christian Association.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have just a brief comment before we accept the recommendation for passage of the report. The report includes a recommendation with respect to Bill Pr3, the successor to Bill Pr13, which was originally designed as a response to the housing crisis in the city of Toronto and which was to give the city of Toronto the power to control demolitions through the control of the issuance of demolition permits.

I simply want to put the government and the government House leader on notice that when this bill is ordered for second reading, we are prepared to give it a speedy passage, but we also want to have the opportunity to debate the bill. Bill Pr3 as it emerged from the committee—indeed, as it went into the committee—has nothing at all to do with demolition control. It is simply a measure that will give the city of Toronto the power to delay demolition for up to 12 months, but there is no effective demolition control involved.

Although it is not normal to debate private bills on second reading—most of them are routine municipal housekeeping bills—this has enormous policy implications and we do want to debate it. I want to make it absolutely clear, however, that we have no intention of delaying the passage of Bill Pr3. Our debate will be short and swift and to the point.

We are told this bill is of such urgency that it had to be passed by 12:30 p.m. today or there would be dire consequences. I want to put it on the record that we have had no indication from

the government House leader with respect to the government's plans to order this bill for second reading or for third reading. If it is a matter of urgency and if there are dire consequences attendant on the passage of this bill, then it is up to the government to organize its business so that happens.

Because there have been allegations that the opposition is somehow trying to delay this bill, I want it clearly on the record that we have no intention of delaying this bill and that if it needs speedy passage, the opposition is not standing in the way of speedy passage. Indeed, the government is standing in the way of speedy passage, because it has given no indication when the bill will be ordered for second reading or when it will be ordered for third reading.

When we get to second reading debate we will have some short and pithy comments to make, and then we will be happy to see the bill proceed into law.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. McLean from the standing committee on general government reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Assembly be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Office of the Assembly, \$32,779,600.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ashe moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Leluk, first reading of Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend coverage under the Public Service Superannuation Act to part-time civil servants, seasonal workers and certain other employees in government-related jobs that are of an ongoing nature.

This bill implements the following statement contained in the throne speech: "To provide wider access to improved rights and benefits, the civil service will include employees who work on a regular part-time basis."

Ancillary to this purpose is an amendment to allow contributors to establish credit for past noncontinuous service. This will permit the

buy-back of credits for past part-time or seasonal service.

The bill also includes some amendments that will bring the Public Service Superannuation Act more into line with other recent legislation.

Finally, a number of housekeeping items are also contained in the bill that are necessary for administrative purposes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

FREE TRADE

Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Gillies, moved resolution 15:

Recognizing that trade plays a vital role in Ontario's economy and that trade policies will be a key factor in determining our province's future, and given that over 70 per cent of our trade is with the United States, this House urges federal-provincial co-operation and direct provincial participation in the recently initiated Canada-US discussions on sectoral free trade arrangements in order to examine the potential long-term benefits to Ontario of free trade arrangements in selected industry sectors.

3:50 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): May I remind the member that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for windup.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it quite clear from the outset that it is my intention only to highlight the issue of sectoral free trade, to draw attention to the fact that negotiations are currently going on and to draw attention to the fact that I believe very strongly Ontario should have a direct involvement in those negotiations.

I will not be taking a strong stand for or against sectoral free trade in any of the sectors that will be briefly discussed, mainly because I do not have the experience or the resources to do the significant investigation that would be required to make a firm pronouncement in any particular sector.

In the uncertainty of today, policymakers must grapple with two conflicting challenges. The first is the task of looking after present needs, of preserving the real gains we have made. The second is the need to keep the long-term considerations and future requirements, which are often ultimately more vital to the health of the economy than the immediate gain achieved by providing short-term relief.

We must remember these two forces are in continual play when we as decision-makers

examine the economic challenges our country and our province face. To my mind, there are two very important challenges we must contend with today. First, we must maintain financial stability in the midst of international debt problems. Second, and what most concerns our interests, we must maintain and expand our trade opportunities in an environment increasingly hostile to a free international trading system.

We all know trade is vital to our national and provincial economies. More than two million Canadians, 20 per cent of our work force, are involved in producing goods for export. Proportionally, we are twice as involved in trade as the Japanese and two and a half times as much as the United States. Unfortunately, the international economic environment is much less hospitable to open trade than it once was.

Many Canadian companies are benefiting from the current economic recovery in the United States; however, the upturn in markets in Europe and Japan is still lagging. This uneven timing of worldwide recovery leads to trade imbalances. These, in turn, create a tendency in countries to advocate protectionist measures. In particular, unemployment in the industrialized countries has generated tremendous political pressure towards trade protectionism.

International rules are slowly being eroded. This could have a potentially devastating effect on Canadian exporters. Yet Canada, similarly to other nations, is preoccupied with protecting its domestic industries and work force. We can see that trade is a double-edged sword. One country can secure an advantage for itself through trade barriers only if the other countries do not follow suit.

Clearly, the problems we face are complex and we cannot expect to come up with all the solutions. What we can and must strive towards is a trade agenda for the 1980s in which we address important issues in such a way as to strengthen our system as a whole, not only domestically but also with respect to our external relations.

The federal government has recently reviewed its national trade policy and has suggested an added emphasis on the US market. In a discussion paper released last September, Ottawa proposed that Canada might benefit from a bilateral agreement with the United States. The idea is for free trade agreements to be implemented with the United States on a limited sectoral basis.

Ottawa's proposal was preceded by a Senate committee investigation into Canada's trading

position. The Senate report was strongly in favour of open-ended free trade with the United States. The federal cabinet rejected the Senate report, which called for free trade, but endorsed more limited trade arrangements with the United States on a sector-by-sector basis. Sectoral free trade pacts would work along the lines of the 1965 auto pact by bringing free trade to certain selected sectors of the economy.

On February 17, 1984, Gerald Regan, the Minister of International Trade, and William Brock, the US trade representative, met in Washington. They agreed to establish a bilateral study group that would report on the prospects of liberalizing trade in selected areas.

Canada was originally interested in pursuing talks in the area of textiles, petrochemicals and transit vehicles. The United States, on the other hand, is interested in free trade in the areas of computer services, equipment and farm machinery.

The final areas of study agreed upon by both countries are agricultural equipment, computer and information services, mass transit vehicles and steel. It was Canada that requested the talks, and the United States agreed readily. Working groups from both sides are now investigating the implication of these areas and will report in May.

The federal government's interest in sectoral free trade rests on the hope that it may offer a promising avenue by which to expand the economic base of a number of Canadian industries, particularly textiles, urban transportation and petrochemicals. Sectoral arrangements might also be a way that Canada and the United States could meet the competition from Third World countries and slow the exodus of production facilities from North America.

The United States has expressed interest in sectoral free trade with Canada, apparently as a means of demonstrating to its other trading partners that progress towards trade liberalization is possible even in today's current protectionist environment.

The first round of negotiations in the sectoral free trade talks is reviewing the possibilities of free trade in the steel industry. The steel discussions were spurred on when the United States imposed tariffs and quotas against all imports of specialty steel. Ottawa reciprocated by imposing a surtax on some US stainless steel products.

During the talks, Canada and the United States will be discussing which steel products to include under the free trade arrangement, a timetable for

eliminating tariffs, measures to break down nontariff barriers and safeguard positions.

The outcome of the steel deliberations will be the acid test of the possibility of future talks in other sectors.

The federal proposals to encourage sectoral free trade with the United States represent a major change in national trade policy. It is a change that could have tremendous impact on our province. I believe it is imperative for us as policymakers to be fully informed of current federal Canadian and US discussions. It is also crucial that our provincial leaders co-operate with the federal government and be actively involved in any eventual decisions concerning sectoral free trade arrangements.

Trade policy is increasingly dealing with issues that directly affect provincial development and involve areas of provincial jurisdiction. Therefore, I believe any successful federal strategy in this area has to be one that is co-ordinated with provincial policies. Only when the federal government begins to treat provinces as partners will we be able to realize the full range of opportunities existing in the marketplace.

A full explanation of sectoral free trade between Canada and the United States requires a detailed investigation of the interests, problems and concerns of each country, where and how those affect the bilateral relationship, and how this relationship influences each country's domestic as well as international situation. It also involves consultations and an exchange of views with provincial authorities and industry spokesmen.

4 p.m.

I hope today's resolution will be the first step in this consultation process. My aim is to provide my colleagues in the House with a general background of the new direction in federal trade policy. I would like to review the issues of free trade and sectoral free trade by talking first on the level of general principle, and then to open up for discussion the topic of how free trade might affect particular sectors of our economy and our province as a whole.

As well, I would like to look at the question of how bilateral agreement with the United States fits into multilateral trading agreements, and that includes the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The idea of sectoral free trade seems very attractive because of the possibilities of achieving lower costs, improved productivity and greater competitiveness in our economy. The economic argument for free trade in general is

well known. It is to the advantage of nations to compete openly and to specialize in the production of goods and services in which they are efficient, and to import those goods and services in which they are relatively inefficient.

When we look back over the past years, it is obvious that the world has reaped tremendous overall benefits from an open trading system. The healthy effects have been abundant—increased economic growth, more jobs and greater consumer choice of high quality goods at lower prices.

During the past years, world trade was the major engine for growth and expansion of world trade. It was aided by the reduction of tariff barriers that were created in the 1930s. What will result from these bilateral, Canada-United States, free trade negotiations? It is going to be a very delicate issue to say the least.

Traditionally, Canadian resistance to free trade with our neighbour to the south has been based on a fear of the loss of political and economic sovereignty. Other fears include loss of jobs and plant relocations. Just recently, in response to the federal proposals, a report by the federal Textile and Clothing Board warns of the negative consequences of free trade with the US in the textile industry. The board concedes that dropping tariffs between Canada and the US could provide consumers with cheaper prices as well as extend new export opportunities.

On the other hand, the Canadian textile industry, currently employing 160,000 people, could be drastically reduced. The removal of trade restrictions could create the possibility of the occurrence of shutdowns in Canada and the relocation of production facilities to the southern US, where wages for workers are significantly lower. The board points out that capital costs and transportation costs are also much lower in the southern United States than in Canada. All these factors could result in the loss of jobs in Canada.

In analysing the pros and cons of sectoral free trade, we must also keep in mind the comments of Abraham Rotstein of the Canadian Institute for Economic Policy, who has stated, "Just as there's no free lunch, there's no free trade." In other words, in pursuing free trade agreements, we must ask ourselves what the US wants in return. Sectoral free trade arrangements could only work if conditions were established to the satisfaction of both countries, and that will be difficult to achieve. The problem is to come up with terms that are to the advantage of both countries and treat both countries equitably.

One problem in dealing with the US at present is the unpredictability of the American congressional system. Certainly, Canadians are very much aware of previous agreements that the administration has had to back away from, such as changes in the auto pact, the fishing treaty, the Alaskan pipeline and so on.

Another issue to consider is what effect the agreement with the US might have on Canada's international options. Under article 24 of GATT, trade advantages negotiated bilaterally must also be made available to other partners. That could dilute any benefit accruing from a bilateral agreement.

Lastly, we must not forget that any agreements are primarily going to have the greatest effect on Quebec and Ontario, and that is why these provinces should be involved in discussions.

Certainly, these types of bilateral trading have been very successful in Austria and Germany, and there are some private sector people who have basically issued Canada a challenge to become the Austria of Europe.

Despite many of the negative effects, which I have already mentioned, that could be associated with bilateral free trade, there are a number of positive aspects, which I have also already mentioned, and a number of people who are very much in favour of free trade.

Sylvia Ostry, the new federal Deputy Minister of International Trade, firmly believes in free trade. She does not believe it would impinge on national sovereignty. She uses the existence of the European Economic Community and the commitment to nationalism of the individual European countries to make her point. Furthermore, she asserts that sectoral free trade talks do not even raise such implications. Limited sector-by-sector, free trade agreements would avoid the political problems raised by open-ended free trade while being consistent with a policy committed to trade liberalization.

I think we must remember the United States is our best market. Last year \$58 billion of goods went from Canada to the Americans. We must also remember that by 1987, under GATT, 80 per cent of our trade with the United States will be duty free on goods going from Canada to the US, and 65 per cent of US goods coming back into Canada will be duty free. Many other goods will have less than a five per cent duty. So it is certain we are heading in that direction just through GATT, without any other special considerations.

I wish to save a bit of time for the end, to make a few comments. I want to leave it at the moment

and say there are a great many practical considerations that must be taken into account. There are a number of other leading people in the economic area who are very much in favour of sectoral free trade, and I do not have time to quote any of their feelings at the present time.

I think it is safe to say my proposal would be to take a very cautious and conservative approach to the liberalization of bilateral trade agreements that we have with the United States or others we might develop. Certainly, as the motion says, I propose that Ontario have a very significant input into the discussions that are currently going on.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat at a loss as to why the honourable member would have introduced this topic at this time, but his opening comments at least partially explained it. If I recall correctly, he indicated he was not speaking either for or against the resolution.

Second, he reminded us there were negotiations under way right at the present time with respect to sectoral trade and free trade between Canada and the United States. Then he went on to indicate, "But Ontario must become part of those negotiations."

It is perhaps only the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) who can tell us the degree to which Ontario is involved, but I would be most surprised if Ontario was not involved very extensively in those discussions. That is the kind of information the member could very well have brought to our attention.

4:10 p.m.

I want to go on record very clearly as saying, as well, that I feel very uneasy about this particular debate and about this particular issue. I fully realize that Canada and Ontario are trading jurisdictions and they are going to become increasingly so.

Trade is something we simply have to come to grips with in our relationships with our trading partners. I have no quarrel with that at all, but I have rather grave reservations when we start talking about free trade between the lion and the mouse. Let us be very clear that is what we are talking about. The United States has a population of 250 million people and Canada has a population of 25 million. The ratio is 10 to one.

Trade history shows very clearly that when the lion takes on the mouse, the lion usually wins. Trade patterns between Canada and the United States through the years are probably as good as between any two jurisdictions; nevertheless, it is clearly shown the results are usually in favour of the United States. That is something we cannot forget.

The other point we have to be very careful of is that in this debate we are talking about sectoral free trade. We are defining four or five particular sectors: steel, mass transit vehicles, farm equipment, computer and processing programs and petrochemicals. Let us not deceive ourselves that the debate in the past, the debate underlying this one and the debate in the future has been, is and will be about total free trade. That is an issue we have to come to grips with as well.

My reading of the views on this issue, especially of the American commentators, both those who are very strongly pro-Canada and those who are not quite so strongly pro-Canada, has clearly indicated there is more to it than what is on the surface.

I will just read one paragraph of an editorial in the *Toronto Star* on April 16, 1984: "While the US government is going along with this narrow sectoral approach, its top trade spokesman, US trade representative William Brock, let slip at a Brookings Institution seminar in Washington last week"—that is about two weeks ago—"that he really wants a broader approach—namely, Canada-US free trade."

I am not trying to find goblins where none exists. I am not trying to create a situation where we have to be unduly alarmed, but I do think we have to recognize that the chances of our getting solely a sectoral free trade agreement with the United States are not very good. What the United States really wants is total free trade, which in my judgement would be a disaster for this country, this province and our economy.

At the beginning of his comments, the honourable member said he was neither in favour of nor opposed to this process. At this time, I would have to go clearly on record as being opposed to it. I do not think it is in Canada's or Ontario's best interest. I am well aware that Ontario and Canada are trading jurisdictions. The member mentioned some of the statistics.

Only a few weeks ago we had another debate on trade in this Legislature. I reminded my colleagues at that time that Japan, which is known worldwide as a trading nation, exports only 12 per cent of its manufactured products, whereas we in Ontario and Canada export 33 per cent—in other words, one third of everything we manufacture. For us, trade is an absolute essential. We could not survive economically without it. There is no sense in trying to deny that. We simply have to recognize, live with and operate within that context.

I would challenge the member just a little bit with respect to his comments about the domi-

nance of our trade with the United States. There is no doubt that at the present time the United States is our major trading partner; it has been so for a long time and probably will be for the next few years.

But we have to recognize that many other countries in the world are coming up fast. I am referring to an editorial of May 1, only two days ago to be exact. These statistics were identified in this editorial. It noted that a careful examination of trade statistics over a longer time frame—the last five years—showed our trade with the United States was up 52 per cent, that is, in total volume. But these are the important ones: with Mexico over the same five-year period it was up 483 per cent; with Taiwan, 133 per cent; with South Korea, 118 per cent; with Hong Kong, 148 per cent, and with Brazil, 102 per cent.

In other words, the increase in our trade with all of those jurisdictions over the five-year period ending in 1983 was double or more than that with the United States. This is clearly not an indication that these countries are about to overtake the United States as our major trading partner, but it is a clear indication that we now have trade relationships with many other jurisdictions that are extensive and growing at a very fast pace and we must deal with them as well.

I mention only that it may be difficult economically and very awkward in our trade relationships for us to get into too many special relationships with the United States when we are expanding at such a rapid pace our trade relationships with many other jurisdictions.

As a matter of fact, I have mentioned in this Legislature and in committee with the Minister of Industry and Trade that it would appear that our long-term trade future is every bit as much with the Pacific countries as it is with the United States. The record seems to show that our trade with western Europe is on the decline, while our trade with the United States seems to be holding relatively stable. But our growth patterns are with such countries as Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. Those are where our future trade patterns are going to take us, and that is what we have to take into consideration.

In this country we have had some raging political debates under John A. Macdonald, Wilfrid Laurier and Mackenzie King with respect to free trade with the United States. It is something we have to keep in mind. We forget our history at our own peril.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edighoffer): The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue this at some other time.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I am positively puzzled by the resolution before us. When I saw the wording of the resolution in Orders and Notices, I took it to mean the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) was in favour of free trade. Certainly, the language of the resolution, which had to do with the potential long-term benefits to Ontario of free trade arrangements, led one to that conclusion.

When he got up to speak, however, he said he had no stand either for or against free trade and no resources with which to examine fully those questions. Nevertheless, although the member is the private member for Durham-York, he is also the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). I would have thought he had considerable access to the resources of the Treasury.

I have no hesitation in taking a stand against free trade. I think free trade, not between a lion and a mouse but between an elephant and a mouse, cannot exist. There is no such thing as free trade, either general or sectoral. Sectoral free trade is just the thin edge of the wedge. If it comes to protecting jobs, then I am for protecting jobs in this country. There is no use having a lower price for consumer goods if we do not have a population working so it has wages to pay for those goods at a so-called lower price.

I do not think this province needs to establish a trade agenda for the 1980s, as the member suggested. We are already halfway through the 1980s. What we need is an economic agenda for the 1980s and the 1990s. Those who argue that free trade in the European common market countries has worked and use that as a model for North America are wrong.

North America does not have the balance and the diversity of the European common market, so it is not a parallel situation at all. In the North American common market or North American continentalism, we have the giant of the United States bounded by Canada on the north and Mexico on the south. It is my opinion, when the Americans are willing to talk about free trade, they are simply looking to Canada and Mexico as extensions of their market.

We have seen a number of ideas sent up as trial balloons by this government, so-called quick fixes to the economy. A couple of weeks ago and again last week, we heard of one trial balloon and that is the export-led recovery. With the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, we had

a major program of import replacement, a strategy for us to produce the staples we need in our economy. This government is moving from one quick fix to another, instead of devising a comprehensive program to develop a five-year program to put together the economic development we need in this province to create jobs and to provide markets for our industries. What we have is a free trade resolution.

For a while it seemed the Ontario government had learned a few basic economic lessons. We were beginning to use the term and the government was beginning to use the term "fair trade," as opposed to free trade. If members want a slogan, my party and I believe in fair trade with all nations, not merely free trade with one nation. Let us understand a few rudimentary facts. Canada is already the international boy scout of the free trade world, and the Minister for Industry and Trade is the troop leader of free trade in the international world. We allow more imported manufactured goods into Canada than any other comparable nation.

Most of our trade with the United States already is free trade. The Canadian Senate committee on Canada-US relations noted in volume 3 of its report that once the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade changes come into full effect in 1987, 65 per cent of US exports to Canada will be duty free and 91 per cent will come in at less than a five per cent duty. The Senate committee also noted that already many imports, including sophisticated machinery not made in Canada, enter duty free.

We should remember what Mr. Roger Hill of the provincial Ministry of Industry and Trade said when he appeared before the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment of this Legislature. He predicted the GATT reductions would lead to about 2,000 branch plants leaving Ontario. We are seeing that happen right now.

What we know is that the United States wants free trade with Canada. We know the United States wants free trade with Canada on its terms, and we know it wants Canada as an extension of its own market. What we have is a desire on the part of the United States to extend the Monroe doctrine into the economic sphere. We know Ronald Reagan was one of the first people to propose that when he announced his candidacy for the US presidency the first time.

What we did not know was that we had a kind of junior assistant on the Tory benches willing to float this trial balloon on behalf of the US government. The resolution in effect calls for

sectoral free trade. The Treasurer made a case for such a program to a Senate committee, which actually rejected the approach because "the committee has failed to detect any American interest in this"—that is, sectoral—"pragmatic approach." If the US now shows an interest, we must ask why.

First, they want to have access to what we call services, and one third of US exports are now in services. What that means basically is the high-technology, computer and banking industries and that is what they are looking for with this approach.

There are a number of other points I would like to make, but in the remaining two minutes, I simply want to say that the Ontario government would be playing directly into the hands of the United States if it followed and supported a free trade approach instead of setting up an independent economic policy.

I just want to quote a few things in support of that. The Toronto Star published very strong editorials on both April 2 and April 16, and I want to give two quotes from its editorial of April 2.

"If Canada moves to greater free trade with the United States, our ability as a nation to have different social and economic policies would be jeopardized....But Canada's potential loss of freedom on the policy front cropped up repeatedly in comments made by American and Canadian trade experts at a recent Canadian Manufacturers Association conference on Canada-US sectoral free trade in Montreal....

"For Canadians, the warning signs could not be any clearer. Closer ties to the US, via new free trade arrangements, would undermine our economic sovereignty and ultimately restrict our political freedom.

"Canada would no longer be free to set its own tax levels," etc. "These costs for Canada of pursuing a free trade deal with the US are far from being acceptable."

Last, I want to quote a person dear to the Tory heart, Mr. Hugh Segal, who said: "It is strange that some in Ottawa should be so eager to advance free trade that they would neglect to pursue the domestic options which, by maximizing our economic opportunities at home and making our domestic market more efficient, could reduce the need for the dubious free trade option. A positive economic agenda must serve Canada's long-term interests, not a response to short-term economic pressures.

"Sir John A. Macdonald beat the Liberals on reciprocity and free trade in the late 1800s. He

stood for Canada and a national policy. He was right then. He would be right today." I would like the Tories to follow the example of Sir John A. Macdonald.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague the member for Durham-York for proposing his well-timed and thoughtful resolution. I fully support the honourable member's resolution since I believe it is vital for our province to ensure its best interests are represented in any federal-US discussions on an issue as crucial to us as trade.

In my remarks to the House today I would like to speak in broad terms about the necessity of supporting a free trading system and of ensuring that our manufacturers and industries can function in a fair and equitable trading system. I would also like to point out a number of other options which we as policymakers might consider in promoting trade and development in our province.

Trade is vital for our economic wellbeing and prosperity. It is imperative that we understand the forces affecting our trade with our neighbour to the south and with the rest of the world, and that we develop strategies to deal with the new realities.

One reality in the world today is that record levels of unemployment in the industrialized countries are generating protectionist trade policies. These are putting tremendous strains on government and on multilateral trading frameworks.

Realistically in the years ahead, some trade-restricting measures by governments will probably be inevitable. What I think will be crucial in future is that governments work together to minimize the adverse effects of such measures, and to ensure such actions do not impair the function of the world trading system.

Our collective wellbeing is dependent on a strong, liberal and fair trading system. The challenges of current domestic problems, with the key concern being jobs, do weigh heavily on the determination of trade policies.

The arguments for protective measures are pretty convincing. At a time of record high unemployment, imports are seen to cost jobs. On the other hand, restrictive measures by one country beget restrictive measures by others. Trade is not a zero-sum game with winners or losers. With trade, we are all winners. With protectionism, we all ultimately lose.

The problem is that it is one thing to believe in the principle of free trade, but it is quite another

matter to participate in a system where not all nations play by the same rules.

An example of the situation our automakers are faced with is in contending with Japanese imports. Allow me to elaborate on this for a few minutes.

At the auto symposium held in the fall of 1983, the vice-president of General Motors described how GM had spent \$4 million in Canada in the past five years to come to terms with the foreign imports. The main theme emanating from the conference was that despite everything GM, Ford and Chrysler are doing to match foreign competition they are working in an environment in which the Japanese hold unfair advantages.

For one, the Canadian auto industry is severely hampered in terms of international competitiveness by the advantageous exchange rates of the Japanese yen. Further, Canadian manufacturers feel the federal sales tax system is more favourable to imports than to domestically produced cars.

Last, Japanese competition has structural competitive advantages related to such things as their different social order and their lower labour costs. Thus, the Canadian auto industry feels it is working in an unfair environment and that this situation has to be neutralized. As they put it, everybody should play by the same rules. If Japan is allowed to reap here, it should also be made to sow here.

The Canadian auto industry believes the rules of the auto pact should be applied to the Japanese and other foreign competitors. The Japanese are, of course, not enthusiastic about such proposals.

A study commissioned by the Canadian Association of Japanese Automobile Dealers points out that cost-cutting and productivity are better answers for the North American and Canadian car industry than a retreat into protectionism.

The fact is that we are doing just that. The North American car industry is going full tilt ahead in order to modernize, to robotize, to adapt new management techniques and to introduce new technology, but it needs breathing space to fully get back on its feet. It also needs to function in a fair market environment.

The demand that Japanese manufacturers play by the same rules as we do is reasonable. It is not a protectionist stance, simply a nationalistic and realistic one. The answer may lie in increased co-operation. In fact, there appears to be a growing trend towards increased co-operation, not only among domestic participants of the car industry, but also on the international level.

For example, more and more Japanese companies are forging links to US auto makers. Many believe this is the best way to reduce trade friction. Canada should also seek such co-operation with Japan.

Unless the Japanese do make some concessions to the domestic industry, unless Japanese producers do start investing in Canada, Ottawa will find it difficult to resist the industry's demand for more protection.

We must realize the key word in today's trading relationships and economic growth is "interdependence," the interdependence of North America and western Europe, the interaction of Japan with those blocs, and the linkage of trade and finance between the industrial democracies and the developing countries. We are living in an interdependent world.

To ensure balanced and sustainable growth, the greatest challenge facing Canada in the 1980s is to preserve the international economic system. Economic policies of individual governments must ensure that both domestic and international implications are taken into consideration. It is disturbing to see the United States, traditionally in the vanguard of the free trade movement, starting to move away from this concept.

Fred Bergston, director of the Institute for International Economics in Washington, is quoted by the Washington Post as saying, "Despite the rhetoric of free trade, the Reagan administration has allowed more restrictive measures in the past two years than any administration since the 1930s." In fact, many experts believe that the White House, worried about the upcoming election, is ready to grant import trade restriction measures to vulnerable US industries.

An example of such a measure already mentioned by my colleague the member for Durham-York is the new tariff imposed on imported steel specialty products. The most immediate danger to our country is the new US safeguard investigations of carbon steel and copper imports. For Canada, these two items represent between \$1.2 billion and \$1.7 billion worth of exports annually. The safeguard investigations involve studies by the United States International Trade Commission to determine whether imports have caused serious injury to the domestic industry of the United States. If the ITC finds injury, the president of the ITC has the authority to take restrictive actions.

Parallel action on steel has also been initiated in the United States Congress. A bill has been introduced reducing steel imports from 20 per

cent to 15 per cent of US demand. This action could reduce annual exports of Canadian steel by about \$400 million. Canadian trade officials expect similar protectionist measures to be launched against uranium imports, canned tuna and some footwear products.

Furthermore, some industries in the United States have begun advocating more restrictive trade measures and protection of proprietary rights for US technology, patents and software. Canada must think seriously about how to get out from this protectionist net. If not, Canadian exporters may be facing the worst threat of trade protectionism in decades, despite the continuing recovery in North America.

We must re-evaluate our trade relationships with the United States, simply because they are so important to us. The USA is Canada's best customer. In 1983, Canadian exports of merchandise to the US amounted to US \$54 billion. This is three quarters of our total exports of merchandise. Conversely, Canada is also the best customer of the United States. In 1983, the US sold \$44 billion worth of goods to Canada, compared with \$22 billion to Japan and \$55 billion to all the countries of Europe combined.

All in all, we would be very foolish to neglect any opportunity to build our trading relationships with our southern neighbour. However, rather than fighting rearguard actions against protectionism, we should be expending our energies exploring ways to expand our trade with the US.

The federal government is now trying to explore such ways. It is seeking free trade arrangements in selective manufacturing sectors with the United States. Earlier this afternoon, we heard some of the pros and cons of free trade arrangements. Clearly, there is still much to consider in the sectoral free trade approach.

I believe our province has much at stake in the current talks between the United States and Canada. I wholeheartedly support my colleague's resolution. I suggest to the House that we collectively urge our government actively to participate in the ongoing negotiations.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate, recognizing that the motion is one which could be supported or not supported, because it would not make much difference. What we are really suggesting is participating in talks the federal government already has under way.

We are all aware that Ontario would play a larger role in the sectors that are being discussed with respect to lifting the barriers and allowing

more free trade. That is acknowledged. In the first analysis, I think the government of Canada is going to have to take the initiative on a Canada-wide basis. This is one time where a strong national government should head up this whole study, because there are parts of Canada that could enjoy some help while others would pay the price for it.

The biggest problem I have in accepting free trade is the fact that we are talking about a giant neighbour. We are talking about a country with some 10 times the population of Canada and about a market that can provide a great buying force as opposed to the very limited one we have.

We have had experience in lowering our barriers. I would like someone to prove to me that Canada came out even, let alone got the best of that arrangement. For many years Canada suffered terribly from the so-called free trade in our automotive industry. We have never, on balance, come anywhere near our American friends. Had we entered a reasonable agreement with American producers and consumers, we might have had an arrangement where we would have been guaranteed equal opportunity on the numbers of automobiles and parts, at least that were used in Canada. Such was not the case.

There are specific areas of which Canadians can be very proud. In the new computer age, for a country our size, we are world leaders. In communications, that goes without question. But there are many people who do not know that Canada, and Ontario in particular, has the most efficient steel mills anywhere in the world. The very first steel mill that developed continuous casting, called concast, was in Welland. They could take molten metal, have it solidify in a copper-chilled jacket and bring a steel slab out the other end with molten steel going in at the feed end of the concast machinery. Canada led in that field.

In Niagara Falls we had a small experimental plant that got involved in the research and development of a steel plant that could make a very high quality steel from low-grade ore and low-grade coal. That sort of thing has put Canada in the forefront of the steel industry.

I make so much mention of that industry because we can take pride in the fact that we are as good as there is in the world in producing steel and some steel products and in having one of the most up-to-date pipe plants in the world in Welland. I think the production of that plant in a size somewhere about one metre in diameter is one mile of pipe per day.

Interjection.

Mr. Kerrio: That is right. We do have tremendous ability, capacity and the wherewithal to be top-notch producers in particular areas. The sad state of affairs in that industry, where we are so good, is that we cannot get the Americans to co-operate in any way on free trade in the steel industry. The steel companies in Bethlehem and in Pittsburgh—huge, monstrous companies—have not kept pace with some of our steel companies here in Canada.

While one might think that Americans would have no fear of trading equally with Canada anywhere across the board, they have certainly taken the initiative in protecting their steel industry. They have even coerced the union into taking a strong stand, even though it is an international union. It seems very strange that it could forget its brothers and sisters in Canada when it comes to looking after its own interests at home.

In that industry, where we are tremendously efficient and where we can compete, one sees that we are wasting our time in talking to our American friends about some measure of letting down the tariff barriers.

When I consider US control of Canadian companies, I think of another sort of lever the Americans have that we Canadians do not have. The honourable member knows full well that if we had some equal opportunity in trading, the Americans would have the advantage of having a similar company in the United States of America. If it were to their advantage to have free trade in that area, they would use it; if they did not, they could then depend on the production from their own plant. In fact, if it became too much of a problem for them when there was expansion or any other area that needed help in any kind of tariff arrangement, the Americans could conceivably pull back and build back home.

It is very strange to have witnessed in Chrysler one of the great miracles in this age of a company coming back from the brink of disaster. We have a gentleman in the person of Mr. Lee Iacocca talking about protectionism. Can honourable members imagine that Chrysler could say in its ads: "We are not afraid of the Japanese or the Germans or any other firm now in the trade. We build a better car. We build it cheaper and more efficiently." The fact of the matter is that Mr. Iacocca says, "I can take on Mr. Toyota," but adds, "President Ronald Reagan has to start taking on the Japanese government by providing incentives to domestic industries and protection from foreign ones."

Members can see that we cannot deal. We cannot and should not attempt to have barriers dropped too readily in dealing with that giant next door. In nearly every instance and every time we have had such an arrangement, we came out second best.

We do need a commitment in our Canada, in our Ontario to bring our natural resources into play, to teach our young people the kinds of trades required to turn out finished products, to become very efficient in those areas and in that way to produce better products at a better price. It is as they describe the mousetrap: if you build a better one, the world will beat a path to your door.

We are lacking better-quality merchandise at a price that would allow us to deal with other nations, even with some tariff barriers, and that would provide the wherewithal to get our nation moving again, to get our young people upgraded and to move in that direction.

Sometimes I wonder whether it has been such a great, wonderful blessing in this country to have had so many natural resources. It seems for too long we have been exporting those natural resources while other people with fewer resources of their own have developed the human element to a much greater degree than we have in Canada. It seems today in this modern age we are still going overseas and still asking people in some of the special trades to come over here. When we are leading in some fields, we are really so far back in developing the potential of our young people.

Again it is very important to look to those jurisdictions that have not had nearly the blessings we have had in natural resources but instead have developed the natural resources of their young people, their work force and indeed of all their citizens.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to get on the record very quickly that I recognize there is some merit in some of the things that are discussed here, but I have to say it is again a very simplistic solution being proposed to a complicated problem, and I cannot support it.

I think all of us in our own communities have seen decisions reached by American head offices that have destroyed our local economy, and this is essentially what the member is pointing towards in these free trade agreements. Even in the ones that have in the long run probably been successful, such as the auto pact, we have still seen that the choice is very often made between production facilities in the United States and

those in Canada, and when the head office is in the United States, the choice will be for the United States.

We are opening up our work force to an increasing amount of capital that is very mobile and looks at production on a worldwide basis, and we will suffer dramatically if we attempt to adhere to what is really a rather 18th-century romantic notion about what doing business is all about. There is no such thing as free trade in this world, and we should recognize that. Until we do, we are in dire circumstances. There is no such thing as a simplistic answer such as this one accomplishing very much.

We should understand, in the Durham region particularly, that we have lost a Firestone plant because of a decision made in an American head office. We have lost a Houdaille plant because of the same kind of decision. It was not because there was not a market for that product, because in the Houdaille plant, for example, there is now another company, A. G. Simpson, using the same machinery, producing very much the same kind of goods—in fact, using in many cases the same workers. So the viability of the product is there, but the decision-making process was not there, and so we lost that production facility.

The examples, I think, should make it clear in all members' minds that this kind of simplistic notion, although it may have some attraction in an academic discussion, is a disaster in the hard reality of the business world today. There is no such thing as free trade, and we ought to understand that. The very best we can hope to get out of this process is negotiated fair trade, and that is very difficult to come by these days as well.

It all has to be put in a context, and the thing that bothers me most of all is that we seem to cling very dearly to these old-fashioned notions that somehow if you could just do this or you could just do that, or if you could bring back a concept that worked a century or two ago, all things would be resolved.

That is not the case, and it is going to be aggravated by the current world economic situation. The mobility of capital is going to destroy this economy unless we get together at some point and recognize that whatever solutions are found to our economic problems, they will come from some union of both labour and management people and government. If we do not get that triumvirate in gear and working together towards common solutions, no matter what we do, we will not have resolved a thing.

There is a need to work and to work hard at developing a system that provides economic answers from a number of perspectives. Then I think the first major problem probably would be simply to recognize that the world is not as simple as it used to be; we have to understand that and make it work in our favour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): The member for Durham-York has about one minute for wrapup.

Mr. Stevenson: I will use it, Mr. Speaker. As I have said and as other members have said, there are many advantages and possible disadvantages to sectoral free trade, but if discussions do not go on and if the terms and conditions of both sides are not placed very clearly on the table, then the people involved will not be able to make the final decisions.

I hope the federal government, with significant input from the province, will continue to conduct these discussions, and when those terms and conditions are on the table, I hope they will have the wisdom to decide whether in each one of those sectors it is in the Canadian best interest and the provincial best interest. If it is not, I hope they will decide not to go forward; if it is in our best interest, then fine. I do not accept the idea that just because it is good for the United States it is automatically not a positive thing for Canada.

LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Boudria moved second reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Liquor Control Act.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to debate in the House this afternoon Bill 8, An Act to amend the Liquor Control Act. Members will know that this bill has attracted considerable attention since I first introduced it to the press on March 2 and since it was subsequently introduced for first reading in this Legislature on March 22, 1984.

It is interesting to note that most civilized countries in the world do sell wine in grocery stores. I do say "most." There are also some Canadian provinces that have mechanisms by which wine and beer are sold in grocery stores. For instance, in Quebec, wine has been sold in grocery stores since September 18, 1978.

Today, we are not discussing whether or not wine is to be sold in grocery stores. We are debating whether wine will be sold in small independent grocery stores or whether we will continue with the present system of having liquor stores and wine boutiques exclusively. These boutiques are stores inside other stores that are no less than 1,600 square feet in area.

There are three themes to Bill 8. The first is the consumer theme. I find it absolutely unacceptable that in 1984 we have to make a song and dance to be able to buy a bottle of wine in this province. As a rural resident, I have to drive by five or six small independent grocery stores before I get to a liquor store where I have to stand in line to buy a bottle of Ontario wine. I find that procedure unacceptable and, frankly, archaic and Victorian.

The second theme of this bill is the small independent business theme. As we know, in Ontario the chain stores have 72.7 per cent of the market. That is an alarming rate of corporate concentration of the food industry in Ontario. Conversely, in Quebec, which permits the sale of both wine and beer in small independent grocery stores, the chains have only 36 per cent of the market. It is interesting to note that is basically the only difference in retailing groceries in the two provinces.

It has been estimated by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business that if both wine and beer were sold in grocery stores, the profitability of those stores would increase by an average of \$200 a week per small independent grocer in Ontario. This is not small potatoes. This is an important feature for the small business men and women of this province.

Numerous studies have been done on this issue. In May 1982, the Canadian Federation of Retail Merchants prepared a report advocating that wine be sold in grocery stores. A similar report was produced by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business on November 8, 1982. On May 5, 1983, the same organization again produced a report and sent it to cabinet.

Most members of the Legislature will recall the Royal Commission into Discounting and Allowances in the Food Industry of Ontario. That commission's report recommended that wine be sold in grocery stores in this province.

Some of us even listen to such things as public opinion polls. The people opposite are known to do that occasionally. The folks who do should know that Paul D. Allen and Associates Ltd., a consulting firm, has recently released a public opinion poll that estimates 70 per cent of the people polled are in favour of wine being sold in grocery stores in this province. The polling folks opposite will be very interested in this.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, an outfit that has been known to do some polling of its own on occasion, did a poll a number of months ago and came up with the same brilliant realization.

There is also a petition I have tabled in this Legislature. At present, more than 4,000 people have signed in favour of such a feature in Ontario.

5 p.m.

The third theme of my bill is the wine growers' theme. The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) will speak at length about this later.

I am extremely concerned that we are potentially losing a very valuable industry in this province right now. Competition from abroad and the lowering of our currency vis-à-vis the European currencies— notwithstanding the lower value of our dollar in comparison to the US, we still have the second strongest currency in the world—have resulted in cheaper European wines. We know the European Economic Community subsidizes that industry tremendously and that has also lowered their prices over there. Our province's wine industry is suffering at this time.

Mr. Riddell: We just tax it.

Mr. Boudria: That is correct; we just tax it.

Let me explain to the members of this House how the bill works. First, small independent grocers would be permitted to sell wine in grocery stores. In this bill I have proposed that grocery stores under 1,000 square metres be permitted to do so. I must say that some federations, especially the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, have asked that the size be increased somewhat. Once this bill is passed today and goes into committee, I would be perfectly willing to entertain an amendment to increase that amount slightly, to make sure it does give the largest benefit to as many people as possible.

There is also provision in the bill whereby a grocer would have a minimum amount of groceries on hand at all times, a minimum to be specified by the minister by regulation. The purpose of this is to ensure a grocery store does not have 100 cases of wine and two cans of sardines in the window. We do want to help our existing independent grocery stores. I know the member for Humber (Mr. Kells) is listening very attentively and has taken note of that.

Mr. Samis: Is the member for Humber the hatchet man today?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Boudria: I want all members to know chains would not be permitted to participate in this. A chain is defined as more than four stores belonging to the same individual or company. An individual who owns four stores or less would be able to have wine in his or her small independent

grocery store. Franchises, where they are members of a buying group only, would be permitted to participate in this as well.

Some government members have instilled fear in the wine industry in this province, saying this bill would contravene the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I find this very interesting. We know Ontario never even signed that document. This is a federal thing and an international matter. This province has not concerned itself with that too much before.

Notwithstanding that, I want to point out to all members that, under the legislation we have right now, regulation 580, section 3(1), of the Liquor Control Act reads as follows: "Subject to the approval of the board, a manufacturer of Ontario wine"—note "Ontario wine," members opposite—"may establish a government store for the retail sale of wine manufactured by him in accordance with the act."

We know it is not a question of whether or not Ontario wine can be sold in grocery stores. That is already in the act. What we are discussing today is the size of the store. That is the discussion—whether one wants to help big business or small business of this province. The choice is up to the members opposite.

We have discussed the issue of alcoholic consumption in the past. I find that very interesting. I want members to know that in Quebec, where they have been selling wine in grocery stores since September 18, 1978, the amount of wine consumed has increased somewhat. That is quite true. However, the amount of spirit alcohol consumed in Quebec has been steadily declining to such a point it now ranks 11th among the 12 Canadian jurisdictions. Ontario's consumption of spirit alcohol is far greater. That has only been the case since grocery stores began selling wine in Quebec.

I want members to know it has not resulted in increased consumption. It has resulted in a decrease in the consumption of alcohol in that province. I am looking forward to the speech that will be made later by the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) on this issue.

There has been some pressure or a belief by members opposite that small grocery stores would be more apt to sell to minors. Would you believe that? Some members of this Legislature think small businessmen are less responsible than big businessmen. We know which side the government is on when it starts thinking that way.

Small business in this province has no lessons to take from big business. Let us examine the

pollution issues of this province or any other issues, Mr. Speaker. Our small business people are every bit as responsible as the big business people of this province. They do not have to apologize to anyone for the way they act.

We know that grocery stores selling wine would be licensed. That licence has a value and they would not want to lose it. They would act responsibly as they have in the past. Small businesses have always acted responsibly. The issue was raised the last time this debate took place, that it was immoral for the small business to partake in the profit of selling alcohol in this province. That was raised by the member for Carleton a couple of years ago. Would you believe that? This government can live off the avails from the sale of alcohol to the tune of \$1.2 billion a year and then tell others they cannot partake in the profit. It has the nerve to come up with arguments such as this.

I have explained the main themes of the bill I propose here today. I want to tell the members this bill has the support of various groups—the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers, the National Association of Tobacco and Confectionery Distributors and the Oshawa Group of wholesale distributors. The Wine Council of Ontario gave its support when I initially presented it. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and several others have all supported this bill. I urge all members of this Legislature to give it their support as well.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in the debate on Bill 8. I want to deal with the principles in the bill and not the details of the number of square feet or anything like that. If it is passed, those details can be amended when we get into committee of the whole House.

On this issue, as on most issues which come before this House, one has to weigh the benefits against the disadvantages and the harms, if any, that can be caused by enacting such legislation. It is obvious, as the member who initiated the bill has pointed out, that the benefits are very substantial. He has mentioned the benefits to the independent grocery stores. I am not sure whether he mentioned—I believe he did—that, in Quebec, sales by the independent grocery stores now total more than \$100 million a year in wine alone. Those kinds of sales have to be very beneficial to them financially. As a matter of fact, they sell—the figures I saw are two or three years old—50 per cent as much as does the Quebec liquor board.

The grape growers, the wineries and the workers—certainly in places such as the Niagara

Peninsula—will benefit immensely from the passage of this bill. If the same pattern were followed here as was followed in Quebec, it would mean the consumption of Ontario wine would close to double. Can members imagine what that would do to the grape growers and to the employees, of which there are now thousands—some of them part-time—who are working in the grape and wine industry?

The farmers and the wineries have adapted to consumer demand in this province. The wines we produce now are as good as any in the world. This would give many more consumers the opportunity to partake of those wines.

I took out a little clipping from the April 24 issue of *Farm and Country* in which these words are printed:

“Taste buds are picking Canadian wine over French. A blind taste testing held in Toronto had two experts and four other wine drinkers with conditioned taste sampling six of Ontario’s finest and some French wines at the same price. On the zero-to-20 scale, the Ontario wines ranked 9.7. The French were given an alarming 8.9 rating. Some may be stunned that the Ontario wine industry has bounded at a remarkable pace over the past few years.”

5:10 p.m.

There is no question our wines are now equal to any produced anywhere in the world. This kind of solution, which I think is unquestionably going to mean substantially larger sales of Ontario wines, is certainly very tempting because there appears to be no alternative way to increase the consumption of our Ontario wines vis-à-vis those of the imports.

In January of this year, largely because of the dumping of French imports, sales of Ontario wines were down by 14 per cent. In February sales were down by 20 per cent and in March down by 23 per cent. The executive director of the Grape Growers’ Marketing Board has estimated farmers will probably be able to sell only about 50 per cent of their crop this year.

The benefits from the passage of this bill will apply to wine drinkers in society generally. They will be getting good wine. They will be getting lots of choice, even if it is all Ontario wine. The public has a stake in this. It has a stake in the funding of the research station at Vineland. The Ontario government partly funded the change-over of vines to *vinifera* and hybrids from *labrusca* grapes. Ontario people have put a substantial amount of money into this industry. We have a stake in it and we cannot let it go down the drain.

Finally in its favour, there is no question it is what the public wants. The ministry’s own polls show that 57 per cent of the people of this province were in favour of having wine sold in the grocery stores and only 42 per cent were opposed to it. As has already been mentioned, the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and the growers and wineries are obviously all totally in favour of this kind of legislation. There is no question it is a popular and very beneficial move.

There is always another side to the issue, however, when one is discussing the sale of alcoholic beverages. Some questions have to be asked. Will this encourage more people to drink alcoholic beverages? Will the people who drink drink more than they have in the past? Will people start drinking at a younger age? If we are concerned about the wellbeing of society, if we are concerned about the people we represent, we have to be concerned about the effects of increased alcoholic consumption and judge every bill we pass on whether it will promote greater consumption or decrease that consumption.

There is no question that in this nation as a whole and in this province there has been a headlong rush in the last few decades towards greater and greater consumption of alcoholic beverages. I have the figures here, and they are quite staggering. A Gallup poll taken on April 16 showed that alcohol consumption staggered—and that was the word they used—to a new high.

The Addiction Research Foundation has published books that show the tremendous breadth of this problem we face with regard to alcohol consumption. In the last 50 years the consumption of alcohol has gone up from 2.81 litres per capita to 11.5 litres. At the same time, cirrhosis of the liver has increased by the same percentage, and all the other problems associated with alcohol have increased in the same manner.

We saw in yesterday’s *Toronto Star* a report that has been released by Ottawa which says one in every 10 deaths is now blamed on alcohol, and that is pretty serious. When we are talking about half a million deaths in this nation, 50,000 of which each year are the result of alcohol, as 30,000 are the result of tobacco, it is pretty serious. Any responsible government has to want to try to reduce the consumption of alcohol.

I received a letter from Mr. Gillespie, who is the president for Ontario of the Retail Merchants Association of Canada, Inc. He stated in the letter that it means a reduction in alcohol consumption. I asked him to write and provide

me with some proof. I did not receive a reply to that letter.

However, I have done enough investigation on my own, particularly with the statistics that come from Quebec, which shows there is nothing to indicate selling wine in grocery stores will increase the consumption of alcohol generally. The general information is that it would likely decrease the net consumption of alcohol.

Because of that, there should be nobody in this House who would vote against the bill we have before us today. I think we should stop advertising alcoholic beverages if we want to reduce consumption of them. With this bill that would permit wine to be sold in grocery stores, I suggest it gives us the best of both worlds. It helps out our own farmers and helps out the wine industry, and will reduce the consumption of alcohol.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this bill because I believe that as legislators we either believe in the laws we pass or we do not believe in them. I am going to leave that as a question for the members opposite. Do they or do they not believe in the laws we pass?

I also want to deal with a couple of issues two members have spoken about in this short period of time and dispute some of the things they have talked about. I am not going to get into the issue of wine in the store per se because, on the face of it, that is all simple.

Mr. Boudria: Do not talk about the bill. We do not want the member to do that.

Mr. Mitchell: Come on now. Did I interrupt the member?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mitchell: Let us not even talk about wine in the stores. On the surface, to put wine in grocery stores seems all so simple, but there is a variety of things we are forgetting.

The member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) talked about the—

Mr. Boudria: That is me.

Mr. Mitchell: Just a minute now. The member talked about the mom and pop stores. If wine were to go into the stores, how many of those stores would have to change their whole method of operation? Think about that. I am talking about one thing the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) chose to ignore, namely, the issue of jobs.

They are not the jobs we think of people occupying for an eight-hour day, but the jobs of the young people who are going to our high

schools who want to earn a little extra income while they are going to school. The kids, the sons and daughters, at the five stores the member for Prescott-Russell can drive to within a few blocks of his house would not be able to work in those stores if my understanding of the law is correct.

The point of the matter is who has passed the legislation.

Mr. O'Neil: You have to have more faith in our youth than that.

Mr. Mitchell: Sure, I have faith in our youth, absolutely. The fact is the members have passed certain laws and the law clearly says, as I understand it, no one who is under age can sell spirits.

If the members want to deal with the supermarkets, I can tell them the supermarkets do not want anything to do with it, at least not the ones I talked to.

Interjections.

Mr. Mitchell: All right, that is fine. If the member for Prescott-Russell wants to say he will cost young people their jobs, that is fine. I will leave it on the record that the member is not concerned about the jobs of the young people who are working in the stores. He is not concerned about the sons and daughters at the mom and pop operations who look for some form of allowance by working for their parents. That is what the member is talking about.

These young people, whether it be at Mac's Milk or Becker—

Mr. Boudria: Mac's Milk is not even included.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Mitchell: I am not talking specifically about it. I am talking about the whole issue of where it is going to be available. The member should use his own mom and pop example. If they do not have children of their own, they may hire some neighbourhood kids, who are usually 16 or 17 years old.

The member talked about having faith in our young people, and I do. However, what about the young person who is in that store one evening—as many of them are—unattended when his friends come into the store and start the peer pressure going?

Mr. Kerrio: Oh, now he does not even trust them.

Mr. Mitchell: Is it a case of trust? I happen to have five children and I know what peer pressure can be, as I am sure the member does.

Mr. Samis: Are they against the bill? Are the member's kids against the bill?

Mr. Boudria: Too bad they are not sitting here.

Mr. Mitchell: I do not know. As I say, the record will show the member is supporting the bill the way it is now worded, which would literally ignore the situation of young people working in these stores.

I am not casting any aspersions at all on the young people who are working in these stores. One automatically admires them because they are attempting to earn a little bit of money for themselves. Let me ask the member this: Does he want to go to American-type shopping in Ontario? What is he going to do to control the access?

His bill looks like an easy one to support. It talks about allowing the small grocer to sell wine, but he must also sell a certain value of groceries and what not.

Mr. Boudria: That is not what I said.

Mr. Mitchell: Perhaps I am paraphrasing. However, what does the small grocer do with the supply of wine he has on the premises under our current laws which would not allow it to be sold on Sunday? How does one close it off? How does one say to people—

Mr. Philip: It is already done. Parts of supermarkets are already closed off on Sunday.

Mr. Mitchell: It is very good for the member for Prescott-Russell to stand up here to talk about what appears to be a motherhood piece of legislation. However, I have to ask the member who is opening up into this discussion to look at the effects of selling wine in the small grocery stores. Does he ever think of the effect it would have on his union members, about whom he is so flaming concerned, who are manning those wine stores? They would start losing the business. The stores would wind up having to let them go. He is not concerned about his union cohorts then, is he?

Mr. Philip: What stores?

Mr. Mitchell: I do not know.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections please.

Mr. Mitchell: It strikes me that be it the liquor store or be it the existing stores out there, if the member lets this go through the way it is worded, these are some of the problems it will create. This is my concern.

The member for Prescott-Russell said I was talking on moral grounds. Is it moral grounds to be concerned about jobs for the young people? I have five children and they have all started trying to be independent at an early age. They have all

worked in the small stores and what not. I recognize that if they are in the store and somebody wants something badly enough, they are going to want to get it. The pressure they are going to apply on those young people will be very hard to deal with.

Second, in doing what the member for Prescott-Russell is attempting to do, he has to recognize there are other statutes and other laws which he, his party or his members opposite have had a hand in passing. Either they believe in them or they do not. It is all very good and the bill seems very straightforward. I happen to think one very major point has been ignored; that is employment.

In the Liquor Control Board of Ontario there are 3,476 employees. How many of those positions would be lost?

Mr. Philip: None.

Mr. Mitchell: Oh, come on, Ed. How can you come out with that? Don't be silly.

Mr. Philip: If I am asked a question, I would be happy to tell you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind the member for Carleton that he must refer to the members by riding and not by name.

Mr. Mitchell: I am sorry. Before I precipitate any more undue argument, that is the area I am concerned about. I cannot support the bill the way it is so simply worded, and I must oppose it.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, as seconder of the bill, of course I am going to support it. I was elected in 1975—

Mr. Ruston: Great year. We almost pushed you guys out then.

Mr. Kerrio: —and when I came to this Legislature, in the legislative dining room of the—

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Almost, but not quite.

Mr. Kerrio: Gordon, are you not listening?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I thought you went over the falls yesterday.

Mr. Kerrio: Listen.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Keep going.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on my first visit to the legislative dining room of this province, our Ontario wines were not listed in the wine list in this dining room.

Mr. Bradley: No. We had to give hints to get them listed.

Interjections.

Mr. Kerrio: It was awful. It simply is disgraceful to think that an industry employing as many people as it does—

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is because the only kind the New Democratic Party will drink is imported wine.

Mr. Kerrio: Let me hurt the minister now: This is an industry that employs as many people as it does and that gives the kind of support the Tory party gets from those wine manufacturers in the Niagara Peninsula. Let the members opposite laugh that one off if they will.

The fact is they did not see fit to list good Ontario wines on the wine list in this Legislature. They had named imported wines and in a small spot at the bottom, it said, "Domestic wines, red or white."

If we are to rely on that government to do something significant in the year 1984, we shall wait a long time before it will do anything about an industry that has turned the world around with respect to winemaking. It was not that many years ago that our winemakers were making wine with a grape that did not have the kind of sugar content with which you could develop a very decent wine, so the wineries were making wine with the product they had at hand.

Over the past 30 years, between the wine companies, particularly those in Niagara, the provincial research facilities at Vineland and the federal government, we have developed varieties of grapes in the peninsula that are second to none, except those of the most extremely beneficial climates of some parts of the world. With these new grape varieties we are producing a product that defies even the finest wine tasters to tell the difference between our wines and the very finest wines imported from many of the countries that for a long time have had a reputation for being the only ones that made good wine.

We have an uphill struggle, without the government putting barricades in the way, to sell a very fine product. We are not talking about doing something unconscionable and we are not talking about our young people being intimidated; we are talking about a sensible arrangement.

To answer a few of the questions that seem to be bothering the member for Carleton, a small store would have a small section with steel gates that could be drawn across it on Sunday or at any other time they are not allowed to sell alcoholic beverages. Remember, we are not talking about a bill that is going to make selling wine in every corner grocery store mandatory. We are talking about someone with a good, commonsense

approach to this, the type of person who qualifies and who is of age who is going to be able to put a section in his store. I cannot believe the member opposite could consider the kinds of arguments he has made are valid.

The wine industry, in addition to what I have described to the members, has come through some very difficult times. They have come through a time when they did not have the grapes, as I have described before, and still we extended a bill to allow the blending of imported juices so we could make a very fine product. We have done that here; the government supported it.

There has been a tremendous shift in people's preference from red wines to white wines and the industry has had to survive that. We have had tremendous pressure from offshore wines being dumped in Canada, wines produced by nations that need Canadian dollars, which provide very tough competition.

5:30 p.m.

It is next to impossible to believe that one could buy a bottle of wine made in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in Niagara Falls, New York, for \$2 less per bottle.

Mr. Wildman: You sound like Mel Swart.

Mr. Kerrio: That is what this government has done for the wine industry of Ontario.

We have now developed such a fine product and we now have tremendous numbers of employees dependent upon that industry. We have many hundreds of thousands of people visit this great province and when they hear "Ontario—yours to discover!" let them discover some of our fine wines on the shelves of the stores they are going to be shopping in. Let them take that back with them to the United States and let them help that industry. I am sure it would have an impact on those people who visit the centre of tourism in Niagara Falls.

I had one concern and it has not really been resolved, but I am sure the member will entertain some modification of the bill during clause-by-clause deliberations to satisfy some of our wineries and the wine council and their concerns about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. We certainly have to live by the GATT.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The GATT is a minor detail. That was a facetious statement, in case you did not know it.

Mr. Elston: George, why do you not speak to the bill?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, do you not think the clock should stop when I am being interrupted?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. Kerrio: All right. I will speak a little faster then. I will play catch up. There is some concern, but I have spoken with the honourable member. He is prepared during clause-by-clause debate to make any kind of adjustment, with all honourable members concurring, that would make the bill acceptable for the GATT.

I am very disappointed there is the resistance on that side to this bill. When we talk about small business, we talk about the businesses that provide some 45 to 50 per cent of the jobs in Canada. It is time we began to consider some options that would make our small businesses more able to support their ventures. I think this is one vehicle that would help them do that.

When we talk about small business, we are not talking in the same sense as the large businesses that have the protection of cartels and monopolies. These do not allow the latitude of really free enterprise.

I am hoping many more members, and I hope some on the other side are going to see the light, will see we have a business here that needs help. The Ontario industry has come a good long way to make a product that is saleable. Many times people spend literally millions of dollars advertising products that are second rate, but in this case, after 30 years of experimenting, we have reached a station in life where we have a quality product.

Because of their numbers, I am hoping at least a good percentage of the government members, not because they are going to do something reasonable and sensible but because they are in such numbers, will support a bill that makes uncommonly good sense, that will not be abused and that will help many areas of unemployment. I am certain that is not going to have some of the effects our friend the member for Carleton East (Mr. MacQuarrie) has suggested.

Mr. Riddell: Why did the member for Carleton East not stay around to listen to the response to his concerns?

Mr. Kerrio: He is going to come back when the mover of the bill has some eight minutes to bring it into some kind of context. He will have to read it on the record, I would say to my good friend.

Mr. Riddell: I wonder if Mr. Speaker will convey the response to his concern.

Mr. Kerrio: That will happen, will it not, Mr. Speaker? He was no help today.

Mr. Speaker: I must remind all honourable members this is not question period.

Mr. Kerrio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We used up so much time today we did not have very much time left. In any event, in winding up my few remarks, I would hope the honourable members on the other side, at least those who are in attendance, will revise their thinking and will give this bill the kind of support it deserves. I am sure they take the odd bit of Niagara wine and I hope they will support the industry.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the bill. I am sure that will come as no particular surprise. I do feel a little uneasy about the fact the member for Niagara Falls and I are on the same side on this one. Knowing that a colleague of mine from eastern Ontario is proposing the bill, a neighbour, makes it sufficient that I feel comfortable with the member for Prescott-Russell. I will ignore the fact that the member for Niagara Falls and I are on the same side on this one.

Mr. Riddell: The member is just starting to see the light.

Mr. Samis: No way.

Speaking to the point just expressed by my friend, may I remind him and members of the House that in 1974 the member for Stormont riding, yours truly, introduced a bill to allow the sale of beer in independent grocery stores. Since 1974 I have introduced the bill and expanded it to include wine at least seven other times. On June 24, 1982, I had a bill which was debated in this same Legislature which would have allowed the sale of Ontario wine and beer in Ontario grocery stores but it was defeated by that side.

The concept is far from new, the bill in itself is far from new, and I congratulate the member for his initiative. I just hope the members on that side would give a little more attention to what is going on outside this building—what people are saying and what people are thinking. I think they should open their eyes to other jurisdictions and see how it has worked in those jurisdictions.

Coming from eastern Ontario, naturally the two we look at most carefully are Quebec and New York state. Let me make it abundantly clear again, as I did last time, that I do not support the New York state concept of private liquor stores and the sort of supermarket concept of selling liquor or wine or beer.

The one I think is most appropriate for Ontario is the system that was developed in Quebec where it has proved to be an overwhelming success. The consumers support it enthusiastically. It gives them greater choice, more convenience and more stores in which to purchase the product. Small businesses en-

thusiastically supported it because they have been able to survive the thrust of the mighty supermarkets. If there is one sector of the economy that needs help, it is the small business sector.

Members should just look at two simple statistics. In Quebec the chains only get 33 per cent of the retail business; in Ontario they get 71 per cent of the retail business.

We can look back to the very first bill, passed in 1951, I believe it was, which allowed the corner stores to sell beer. Then there was the updating of that in the late 1970s to allow them to sell wine, as well as apple cider. One of the fundamental reasons Quebec independent and small retailers can corner 67 per cent of the market is the fact this product is available to them. They have actually made it a free enterprise system, not a monopoly enterprise system as we have here.

The government over there likes to expound a lot of rhetoric about free enterprise and caring about small business. If we look at what is going on in Ontario today in terms of wine, for example, it is a blatantly biased policy in favour of big business. Those kiosks are located in the big supermarkets, and those big—

Mr. Boudria: In those 16,000 square feet or more.

Mr. Samis: The member says they are 16,000 square feet or more. Those 70 or so kiosks complement the Loblaws, the Dominions, the Steinbergs, etc., which are owned by Power Corp. or Argus Corp. These are multinational corporations. These are the biggest of big business in the retail food business. George Weston Ltd. is another example. But when somebody wants to help small business they refuse to do it. That is the hypocrisy of the whole thing. They talk about free enterprise. Here is an opportunity to help small independent grocers, small businessmen in communities across Ontario and they shut the door on them.

5:40 p.m.

There is some talk about loss of jobs. My understanding is that only 10 per cent of the liquor store sales in Ontario are Canadian wine. Even if they were allowed in the corner stores, we would still have people purchasing their Canadian wines in liquor stores. Let us say they lose half their business. Would that mean a loss of jobs? Of course not. That is just nonsense.

The simple fact is that the people of the province now want this change. In my own riding, we took a survey on this a while back and

the majority was 79 per cent in favour of the sale of wine in corner stores.

I even have a strange-looking pamphlet called Larry Grossman, MPP, *Keeping in Touch*, with a picture of you-know-who on the cover. On the back page there is a question, "Do you agree with the proposal to allow wine and/or beer to be sold in grocery stores in Ontario?" The answer is "yes," 69.02 per cent; "no," 29.56 per cent. In the Treasurer's riding, 69 per cent are in favour of this bill.

My colleague has also quoted some other surveys. Whether it is the government's own official survey showing 57 per cent in favour or a consumer survey showing 62 per cent in favour, it is obvious the majority of the people are now prepared to support this measure. It obviously makes sense.

I am not even going to dignify the absurd arguments raised by the member for Carleton by commenting on them. I make this point: He should go to other jurisdictions outside Ontario. It would do him the world of good. He should go to Quebec, certain states in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe or Latin America and see how they do it. He should ask the people if they think it makes sense, if it works, if it offers them what they are looking for or if it is extravagant, corrupting or whatever.

They did a survey in Quebec three years after they introduced their system and there was overwhelming support for the new system of allowing it in small corner stores. Recently we were down in the Caribbean, and I was amazed how liberal their policies were; they have little stores selling beer, wine and liquor.

Since my time is almost up, let me suggest that this would help the wine industry and small business. It would have the support of consumers and it would ultimately expose the hypocrisy on that side of the House because they would have to choose between big business and small business.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Humber.

Mr. Kells: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Prescott-Russell had reserved some time, and coincidentally it was eight minutes and 17 seconds, which is the time now.

Mr. Kells: My pleasure; another one they do not get to hear.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to conclude the debate on this bill. I would love to have had the benefit of information from the member for Humber. Unfortunately, because of certain things that happened today in this

Legislature, our debate is somewhat shorter than would normally be the case, and we will not be able to listen to the input from the member for Humber. Perhaps he can whisper it in our ears later or indicate in this Legislature how he feels about the issue on some other occasion.

It was interesting to hear some of the arguments brought forward in this debate by spokesmen for the Conservative Party. It is unusual to have a member stand in his place and talk about the fact that this would reduce jobs for our youth. This same government that is responsible for 20 per cent of our young people being out of work is trying to lecture us on how to give jobs to our youth. Does that not epitomize how ridiculous that argument is?

Small business is far more labour-intensive than the big businesses that are the friends of those members. They will ultimately provide far more jobs for our young people.

Mr. Barlow: We have been saying that for years.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You have finally been listening.

Mr. Boudria: Then they should do something and create employment in this province, instead of producing the sanctimonious, archaic, Victorian arguments they have brought forward today against the sale of wine in small, independent grocery stores.

We are talking about how there would be this great pressure on young people to buy wine. We have wine in large grocery stores right now. Does that mean every kid in a shopping centre falls flat on his face in front of the wine outlet inside a Dominion store? It certainly does not. Why would it happen in a small grocery store if it does not happen in a large grocery store?

It is unfortunate we did not have the input of all honourable members today. The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) wanted to participate in this debate. He would have a lot to say about the difficulty of the wine industry and the grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula. I am sure the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) would also have spoken in favour of this bill had he been given the opportunity to do so. We are still hoping at least he will vote for the bill. I am sure the member for St. Catharines will support it, and I hope the member for Lincoln will support it.

This business about jobs being lost in the liquor stores in Ontario is a very weak argument. As has been indicated by the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis), less than 10 per cent of the sales of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario have anything to do with wine. Some of the wine

sales are institutional wine sales—in other words, sales to restaurants, hotels and so forth; the banquet sales—which means perhaps three or four per cent of the wine sold in liquor stores right now ends up on the consumer's table. Only a percentage of that would be sold by the small independent grocery stores, because the wine boutiques and the LCBO would still exist.

The government of this province is encouraging corporate concentration in the food industry. Liquor stores are usually located in or right beside large shopping centres, which in turn have the large corporate grocery stores. Inside those large corporate grocery stores, the government has licensed the wineries to operate wine boutiques. It has created an atmosphere where big business feeds upon big business, leaving nothing to the small independent merchants of this province. That is what this government has created.

When the member for Carleton says, "What would we do about not selling wine on Sundays?" my own personal view is that I am not against selling wine on Sunday to start with. However, this has nothing to do—

Mr. Mitchell: But that was the question I asked.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Boudria: It may surprise the member for Carleton that this has nothing to do with the issue of selling wine on Sundays, Saturday nights, at six o'clock in the morning on Tuesdays or anything else. The issue we are discussing today is not the hours for selling wine; it is the stores where it is sold.

Mr. Mitchell: You do have to discuss it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mitchell: It is in the context. Come on, you cannot ignore it.

Mr. Boudria: That is a lot of nonsense.

Had the member for Carleton read the bill, he would be far better off making half-credible arguments against it. I do not think he can muster credible arguments no matter how hard he tries. Since he did not bother reading it, his arguments are even less credible than they might have been.

I took some time to read some of the arguments he proposed two years ago against the sale of beer in grocery stores. At that time, in a conversation I had with him, when I said, "Wine should be sold in grocery stores," he said: "That would be much better. That I would like." That is what the member for Carleton told me two years ago. It is interesting to see how the Tories opposite can change their minds when they are whipped into

line by their party, which supports its large corporate friends. That is the issue at stake here today.

I have received hundreds of letters from across this province, 4,000 names in favour of this, the names of grocer after grocer supporting this. The member asked, "What happens to the grocery store that does not want this?" Nobody is twisting anybody's arm. A store has to apply for a licence. We all know that. A store would apply for a licence and if it got the licence, it would sell wine. If a store owner is concerned because there are teenagers in his own family, he does not need to apply for a licence. That is very simple and elementary. Nobody forces anyone into business in this province. It is a conscious decision that people take. That has never come across to the member for Carleton.

5:50 p.m.

Let me read a letter I received from one small store in my riding, the J. T. Bradley store in Navan. It was sent to the Minister of Commercial and Consumer Relations (Mr. Elgie)—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Boudria: It reads as follows: "As president of J. T. Bradley and Sons Ltd., an independent grocery store in a small community, I am writing to voice my support of Bill 8 advocating the sale of wine in independent grocery stores in Ontario.

"To be competitive in the operation of a grocery business, it is necessary to have the opportunity to offer as many services as those found in larger chains."

That is the issue.

For instance, the Dominion store in Orleans has a wine shop set up within its confines. This is what those people had to say: "We would welcome the opportunity to offer this service to our customers by our store, which has been in operation since 1898."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Boudria: The government of this province is ignoring the will of the people; some day it is going to have to answer for that. That is all I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Stevenson has moved resolution 15.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on Bill 8:

Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Birch, Cousens, Dean, Eaton, Elgie, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Havrot, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, McCaffrey, McCague, Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pope, Robinson, Rotenberg, Scrivener, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Wells, Williams—35.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could indicate to the House the business for the remainder of this week and next.

Tomorrow morning we will continue with the estimates of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, which will start tonight.

On Monday, May 7, we will do the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services.

On Tuesday, May 8, in the afternoon and evening we will resume the adjourned debate on Bill 141 in committee of the whole, followed by second readings of Bills 41, 43 and 45.

On Wednesday the usual committees may meet.

On Thursday, May 10, in the afternoon we will deal with ballot items in the names of the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz). In the evening we will conclude the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services and then resume the adjourned debate on the reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

On Friday, May 11, we will do second readings of Bills 36 and 37 and committee of the whole on Bill 42.

The House recessed at 5:56 p.m.

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25	881	2	7	et al: Hon. Mr. McCague—The right of members
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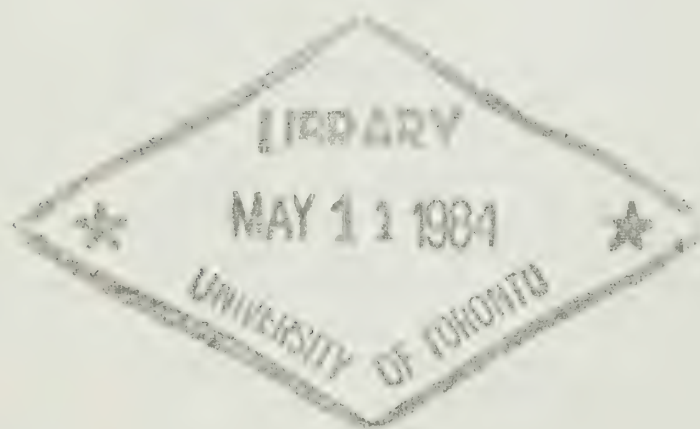


No. 35

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 3, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 3, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Deputy Chairman: Is there an opening statement by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs?

Mr. Ruston: Yes, he has. I am reading a thing here of about 26 pages.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, it is actually a very short statement that I thought I should make to the House.

Mr. Breaugh: It will take about three hours to read.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is typed very large, and everyone has been supplied with a copy of it.

Mr. Bradley: Will this take us to the end of the first period?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think all members of this House are hoping the Montreal Canadiens win tonight. I am sure they will need the members' support before the tube at some part of the evening.

Mr. Bradley: Those who have money on the Islanders will not be hoping so, and some of us do.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

I would like to begin by saying that this estimates debate, as always, provides a welcome opportunity for members of the House to review several issues of an intergovernmental nature. I would particularly like to reflect on some of the implications for Ontario and Canada of recent international trends and the impact of these trends on our federal structure.

Before doing so, however, I would like to share with the House some of the changes that have taken place within my area of responsibility. On January 1 a new Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs was appointed. He is Gary Posen, who is well known to many of you. Mr. Posen brings to this position a wealth of experience. He served for several years as director of federal-provincial relations in our ministry and for many years in the Ministry of

Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs in various intergovernmental capacities.

During that time, in his last position as director of federal-provincial relations, Gary was a valued senior adviser on all significant federal-provincial and interprovincial policy questions that this government had to address.

More recently, Gary has served as the assistant secretary to Management Board responsible for program review. This exercise was designed to introduce greater efficiency and a sense of priority into our policy and program development systems.

I would also like to acknowledge at this time my sincere appreciation to my former Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Don Stevenson.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sure Don would appreciate the sentiments from all members of this House. He was a very hardworking and efficient Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. He was in this ministry from 1978 to the end of 1983 and he made an invaluable contribution to the conduct of Ontario's relations with other governments in Canada and abroad.

More particularly, he was a major constructive influence in the discussions and negotiations leading to the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and our revised Canadian Constitution.

Don is now the Deputy Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, and I am sure he will continue to play an important role in the public life of Ontario and Canada. In addition to being Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Don was also the provincial co-ordinator for French-language services.

Replacing him as the new co-ordinator is Clément Sauvé. Mr. Sauvé is a distinguished Franco-Ontarian. He has been a senior Ontario public servant for a number of years. In addition to his new duties as co-ordinator, Mr. Sauvé continues to serve as secretary to the policy and priorities board of cabinet.

With regard to the estimates before them, members will have noted, I am sure, that our planned expenditures this year are approximately one million dollars higher than the estimates for the last fiscal year. Included in this year's

estimates are a number of special, one-time-only expenditures.

For example, I refer to the visit by Her Majesty in July, to the provincial portion of the temporary storage of radioactive soil from the Malvern residential area and to the final instalment of our disaster relief assistance for earthquake victims in Italy. If this special, extraordinary, one-time spending is placed to one side, I would note for members that the spending for the core ongoing programs of this ministry will be about the same amount as the actual expenditures during 1983-1984.

Moreover, we will accomplish this restraint without any significant change in our mandate. On the contrary, we expect to be providing advice on an ever-increasing number of issues of importance to the province.

In my opening remarks I want to focus on the international economic environment and its implications for Canada and our province. I am sure all of us in this House recognize the global environment of today is a far different one and a challenging one. The world has come through some tough times and is emerging from a severe economic recession.

Unemployment, protectionism and industrial adjustment are now lingering problems of major proportions. Canada is rich in natural and skilled human resources and has enormous potential for economic growth and renewal. However, success in achieving this potential will depend on our ability to compete in international markets and to cope with rapid change and continuing instability.

The Canadian response to this situation will have to be strong and effective in very substantive terms. However, given the federal nature of our country and our recent propensity for internal conflict, the process by which we develop such a response will be just as critical.

Thus, the challenge we face has a domestic and an international dimension. Let me remind the House that the mandate of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs encompasses both of these dimensions.

Let me turn to the domestic scene first. At the federal level, we are now witnessing the end of a political era as Prime Minister Trudeau's retirement draws closer. We have a new leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party, and by June 17, 1984, we will have a new leader of the federal Liberal Party, who will in due course take his place as Prime Minister. Within the year we will undoubtedly experience a federal election.

Mr. Ruprecht: What about the NDP? When are they going to change leaders?

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The honourable member is being provocative.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All this has added to the uncertainty and frustration in our federal-provincial relations. During the past decade, inter-provincial relations have also suffered major strain. At present, however, stress in our relations with Quebec resulting from the separatist option and the tensions resulting from competing economic interests between regions such as Ontario and Alberta are somewhat muted.

8:10 p.m.

In a federation such as Canada, harmony and prosperity are largely dependent on the ability of federal and provincial governments to co-operate with one another in good faith. The past decade has illustrated this need vividly, and it underscores the need for co-operative solutions.

Although the major intergovernmental conflicts which have characterized this period have eased, several irritants remain. However, it should be apparent to all of us that if we are to take full advantage of our international opportunities, we will first have to put our own house in order. We must develop a national consensus on appropriate goals and priorities, consult on the range of policy initiatives required and co-ordinate the interdependent programs of both our orders of government, federal and provincial. In very simple terms this means we must learn to work together again.

Achieving such a degree of co-operation in the face of the international challenge is not going to be easy. It will force us to face up to some very difficult domestic issues. For example, as I emphasized in my previous estimates statement, we will have to consider new national institutions and practices which will generate the cohesiveness we so desperately require.

I recognize Canadian federalism is, in part, a difficult balancing act. Our history is one of continued struggle to find an effective balance between national and provincial interests, between the French and the English cultures and between our different and often competing economic interests.

During the next decade we will particularly have to find the balance appropriate to the new economic circumstances we face. We will, for example, have to consider how much emphasis to put on efficiency and competitiveness, on the one hand, and equality and redistribution, on the other. All of this will require a greater sensitivity

to the national interest than we have collectively shown in recent years.

Strong federal leadership combined with regular provincial input will be absolutely critical to achieving success. We will need national institutions that encourage this kind of co-operation. It is in all our interests to redevelop our sense of partnership to ensure that our decisions reflect our mutual best interests. To do so, it will be more important than ever to ensure we understand one another.

For our part, Ontario will have to be more vigilant and effective in explaining our interests to both the federal government and to other provinces. One way I might suggest to assist in this objective might be through provincial representation in Ottawa and in other regions of Canada. Some provinces already have offices in Ottawa. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec are now represented in this way.

In addition, Quebec has offices in Toronto, Moncton and Edmonton. Perhaps now is the time for Ontario seriously to consider adopting this kind of approach. A visible Ontario presence in other parts of Canada would enable this province to explain its own interests, policies and views very directly. Conversely, I think it would provide us back here with a better understanding of the interests, policies and views of other provinces and regions.

Similarly, a more effective intergovernmental presence in Ottawa could go a long way towards strengthening federal-provincial relations. Unlike other provinces, we do have many provincial offices in Ottawa to deliver the services of various ministries of this government, but we do not have a direct intergovernmental office to liaise with the federal government.

Mr. Boudria: Is that where the minister is posting Omer?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will tell the member that in due course now.

Having an intergovernmental office in Ottawa could encourage the federal government's policy process to be more responsive to the interests and concerns of the government of Ontario in a more direct and timely way.

But increased domestic representation within Canada should not be our only focus. In this ever-more competitive world environment, the establishment of a distinct image for Ontario internationally must also be considered a key aspect of the challenge. Opportunities for growth in our economy are going to depend on this province's ability to develop markets in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Trade

objectives must be pursued by direct and by indirect means. Educational, cultural, and scientific exchanges, for example, all contribute to the building of bridges with our trading partners and lend substance to our relations with them.

Similarly, official visits contribute to the development of bilateral contacts and are a means for us to showcase our province's diversified economic and industrial base and our resources, both natural and human. These visits have increased dramatically, both to and from Ontario. Fostering contacts and opening doors raise the potential for commercial spinoffs and assist in developing international trade opportunities.

I see my friend is smiling as I say that. I hope his visit to New Orleans next week will accomplish those same ends. I am sure it will.

For these reasons, the Ontario government has established a network of offices abroad to complement the work of Canadian embassies. Ontario Houses in London, Paris, Brussels and New York, along with trade offices in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Frankfurt and a number of United States cities are a way to build our reputation in a variety of ways. In this activity my ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade work hand in hand.

The number of international issues in which this province has a direct interest has increased very significantly in recent years. As a result, it has become increasingly important that we are quickly made aware of developments in key areas of the world. This is particularly so with the United States. For the obvious reasons of geography and affinity, relations with the United States are Ontario's primary international concern.

There are a number of difficult issues affecting our interests that have emerged with the United States. Ontario has had to deal with them quickly and with the assurance that the essential interests of this province are recognized and protected to the greatest degree possible.

One of Ontario's greatest needs in Washington has been an early warning system. We require some means by which we can learn about the plans or programs of the United States administration or the legislative initiatives in Congress that may impact on this province in time to be able to do something about it.

Since 1971 the Canadian embassy in Washington and all Canadian consulates in the United States have passed informative messages to us through the Department of External Affairs. While this information flow, as I call it, is very

useful, it can never be as substantive or timely as we may wish. We must, therefore, supplement the information flow from time to time by other means. This may be as informal as telephone calls to the embassy or, in the case of very important issues like air quality, necessitate the use of agents and information-gathering consultants as they may be required.

The nature and importance of the emerging Canadian-American issues and their critical implications for Ontario suggest it may now be appropriate for us to use consultants in Washington on a more frequent and perhaps continuing basis. It should be made clear that our aim has always been to have the Canadian embassy formally represent Ontario's interest. Canada must be seen to speak with one voice in Washington. Ontario's consultants are not lobbyists. They do not press Ontario's point of view to the administration or to members of Congress.

Whereas in the past, Canadian trade has focused primarily on the United States, we must look at other areas of the world if we are to increase our exports significantly. Particularly promising areas are the Pacific Rim and the Middle East. Ontario will have to establish a foothold in these important new markets. It will not be an easy task. The great diversity within those regions, the varying states of economic development, the cultural differences and the variety of political systems require carefully tailored approaches.

Ontario has been active, too, as I say, in the Middle East, particularly in the sale and provision of services. We continue to regard the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia as a very promising area.

The government has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote Ontario's interests in Asia and the Pacific. We have emphasized the province—

An hon. member: What about Saudi Arabia?

Mr. Boudria: Do not interrupt his train of thought.

8:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have just emphasized the great work in Saudi Arabia. My friend the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has already visited there and done a great job selling Ontario and Ontario interests.

As I say, the government has taken a number of initiatives to promote Ontario's interests in Asia and the Pacific. We have emphasized the province as a sound location for entrepreneurs seeking to diversify their investments and we have promoted our public sector capacity in education, training and transportation. The

growing number of visits, student exchanges, international co-operation and cultural exchanges have also served to strengthen the links between Canada and Asia.

In 1983, the Premier (Mr. Davis) visited Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. In return, this year Ontario has welcomed the Prime Ministers of Thailand, Malaysia and the People's Republic of China to Toronto.

In January, when the province had the opportunity to host Premier Zhao Ziyang of China, I talked to him about the possible twinning of our province and the province of Jiangsu. I came away from that meeting heartened by the positive response we received to that proposal. China's desire for technology transfer and technical co-operation is well understood by Ontario and may provide some exciting and interesting new opportunities.

With this in mind, a delegation of senior Ontario officials headed by my deputy minister will visit Jiangsu in the next few months to pursue the twinning initiative.

Mr. Roy: Are you not going along?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am not going.

Although the United States must logically be our prime interest, and the Middle East and the Pacific Rim hold many future possibilities, let me assure the House we have not forgotten the importance of our relations with Europe. As one of the richest and most varied markets in the world, western Europe remains vitally important to Canada and Ontario, second in importance only to the United States. It continues to be a key priority for this province. Through our offices in Paris and Brussels, new opportunities are continuing to be sought and developed.

Mr. Bradley: How is Omer Déslauriers?

Mr. Wells: He is doing a very good job. He is working hard on the member's behalf, on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Ontario.

To conclude this area of the program of this ministry, let me say it is clear we face a challenge that involves the economic future of Canada. It will require us to redesign our national institutions to be more vigorous in developing national policies to strengthen our economy and industries, and to be aware that the measure of our success will be our ability to compete more effectively in an increasingly complex and demanding world.

It is interesting to reflect in this bicentennial year that this is not the first time the people of this province and country have faced difficult challenges. In their day, the pioneers and settlers of Ontario had their own problems to overcome. In

1984, we are celebrating their success in meeting those problems and the contribution of all the generations of Ontarians who have followed.

As all members know, particularly those who saw that great film last night, the theme for our bicentennial is "Celebrating Together." It underlines the hard work and community commitment that individual citizens have made to our province. Bicentennial celebrations honour the parts played—

Mr. Bradley: This would be a good speech for 1991.

Mr. Boudria: It is an unusual exercise in modern mathematics.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Do the members not want to honour the parts played by all the people who have made up this province?

Mr. Boudria: You cannot change history. You phonies are changing geography.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The member should just worry about honouring all those people who for the last 200 years have developed this province and we will be happy to join with him.

These celebrations honour the parts played in our development by our early settlers, native people, Franco-Ontarians and new Canadians from all over the world who have made this province envied for its tolerance, peacefulness and prosperity. Our bicentennial year should give us the strength to do those things that need to be done to better our country, our province, our community, our families and ourselves.

Mr. Roy: Let us stop now and pray a bit longer. We are all in favour of the Lord's Prayer and we love our families.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We can bring the band in now, if the member would like.

Mr. Roy: Soft music only please.

The Deputy Chairman: There is no music in the House.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say, having just concluded those remarks about the bicentennial, that we are all very pleased that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh have accepted our invitation to visit Ontario and to participate in our bicentennial celebrations.

I would like to say to my friends across the House, since they, of course, are closer to those people aspiring to be the leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister of Canada, please tell them that the people of Ontario do not want that tour cancelled.

Mr. Ruston: Especially when you are the first ones to call an election.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No.

Mr. Boudria: Especially when you are down in the polls.

Mr. Ruston: We know you guys. Don't worry about that.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The honourable members will have an opportunity to discuss this.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think it would be a sad day and a shameful thing for all the preparations that have gone on and for the expectations of the communities of this province if someone should consider it.

Now I would not even think of mentioning this except that the recurring rumour keeps jumping forward, and I understand—

Mr. Wrye: Like a June election.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. I am sure the leader of the federal Conservative Party has asked in the House of Commons for the same guarantee from the present Prime Minister.

Mr. Bradley: He wants an election.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. He said, "I hope you would guarantee to the people of this country that the visit will not be interfered with."

Mr. Roy: Did he say that before or after the polls?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I do not know when he said it, but since the members opposite are very close to the those aspiring to that high job, I hope they will pass on to them that the people of Ontario want that visit to proceed.

Mr. Bradley: They keep telling me Brian Mulroney wants an election.

Mr. Roy: If you are in a pinch, move.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, I hope my friend is not saying that he would condone actions that would cancel this visit. I hope he is not, because I think the people of this province expect—

Mr. Roy: In bicentennial year, I want to see the Queen. Let that be on the record.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, that is fine.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be here from July 16 to 24, and they will visit many regions in Ontario. They are going to have the opportunity to meet Ontario residents from all walks of life; native peoples, youth, senior citizens, multicultural groups, farming and other community organizations.

In 1984, we will also be honoured by the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II during the

month of September. In this regard, two of the most treasured historical sites in this province, the Martyrs' Shrine and Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons in Midland, are included on his itinerary.

I would say these visits cannot help but make 1984 an eventful and historically memorable year for this province.

As minister responsible for French-language services, I would like now to take a—

Mr. Boudria: Let's hear this.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, here it comes.

Hon. Mr. Wells: This is particularly for the member for St. Catharines.

Mr. Wrye: En français?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would like for a few minutes to outline our activities during the past year with regard to these services and to indicate to the House our priorities for 1984-85.

Over the past 15 years the government of Ontario has developed the capacity to provide a broad range of French-language services in virtually all of the Ontario government offices located in the designated areas throughout the province. If we look back—

Mr. Roy: You said this in an earlier speech. I am reading an earlier speech and you said the same thing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I know. I want to have it said again in this House and I want to have it in the records of Hansard because so many people seem to forget what I am saying.

Mr. Roy: It is called the quiet revolution speech.

Mr. Boudria: I think the problem is that too many people remember.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. Roy: Is this being taped?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We also have the Ontario federal Conservative caucus meeting across the hall. I want to this to be heard so it will spread far and wide in this building.

If we look back two decades, all this was nonexistent. These services, policies, administrative procedures and statutes had to be developed from scratch. Ontario's commitment to French-language services has resulted in many changes in law and the extension of French-language services on a steadily increasing basis year after year.

Over the years, our approach has been based on the following four main principles: a respect for Ontario's history, an emphasis on pragmatic rather than symbolic solutions, the need to develop the human resources to deliver the

services and the subsequent consideration of constitutional or statutory guarantees.

Mr. Bradley: Tell the francophones what you are doing but don't tell the anglophones.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am telling the member in this House here tonight and I will tell everybody. I do not make different speeches to francophone groups and to anglophone groups.

To expand on these considerations, let us begin with the first of these two items—respect for Ontario's history and an emphasis on pragmatic rather than symbolic solutions. Ontario's policy has been developed in a spirit of attempting to provide French-language services to the province's official minority-language group while at the same time respecting the wishes of the majority of its residents.

Mr. Boudria: Did the minister say "official"?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I said the official minority language, certainly.

This means proceeding at a careful, well thought out pace, gradually yet steadily developing services for Ontario's French-speaking population in a manner acceptable to and in harmony with the majority. This approach has proven highly successful, enabling Ontario to avoid the problems that have been encountered by other provinces from time to time.

With regard to the third consideration, staff training and development needs, the quality of Ontario's French-language services are contingent on having in place bilingual personnel capable of serving the public and managing programs in both official languages and developing the necessary resources to do so. Such capable people do not crop up overnight. This process needs careful cultivation and nurturing to ensure continuous growth and to support the provision and extension of adequate French-language services.

Over the past few years, the number of Ontario's civil servants with a French-language capacity in the various ministries has increased considerably, despite severe budgetary constraints and a steady reduction since 1976 in the total number of civil servants in Ontario.

The fourth consideration, the achievement of statutory protection or constitutional entrenchment, is of the utmost importance to the government of Ontario as a means of safeguarding and confirming the gains that have been realized. With the capacity to provide services in place, what is required is providing through legislation firm guarantees that have sanction in law.

In education, the area in which our services are best developed, we have long been supportive of constitutional guarantees for minority language rights. I am very proud of the fact the government of Ontario was the first among the provinces to urge the entrenchment of minority-language education rights in the Canadian Constitution.

Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which constitutionally entrenches these rights, is one of the major achievements in the long and often difficult process of constitutional reform.

In summing up, I have just described the four pillars upon which the government's approach to French-language policy is based. Now I would like to outline specifically what we have achieved in terms of providing services to the province's francophones by comparing the situation that existed 20 years ago with the current situation.

That is what we must do. We do not compare ourselves with other provinces; we must compare what was here 20 years ago with what is here today. When we do that, it is apparent the government's French-language policy has enabled us to develop a wide range of French-language services.

As a result of the government's step-by-step approach, there has been a growing awareness and increased sensitivity on the part of Ontario's civil servants towards the necessity of responding to the needs of the province's francophone population.

The office of the provincial co-ordinator of French-language services is the main body responsible for the development and co-ordination of policy in French-language services. As I have already mentioned, Mr. Clément Sauvé is the new co-ordinator of French-language services. As such, Mr. Sauvé provides the office with policy development leadership while the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for maintaining the close working relationship that has always existed between the office and the ministry.

The co-ordinator's mandate covers a broad range of activities, such as making policy recommendations to cabinet, assisting ministries with the implementation of French-language policy and establishing guidelines for French-language services for the government as a whole and also for the various ministries.

To ensure the government's French-language services correspond to the needs of their users, the office of the government co-ordinator analyses these services regularly in terms of both quality and quantity. This analysis is reflected in

the report of the government co-ordinator, which is tabled in this Legislature each year.

For the fiscal year 1984-85, the office of the provincial co-ordinator's expenditures are estimated to be \$1.393 million, an increase of about \$108,000 over actual expenditures for 1983-84. Among its main activities over the past year, the office has helped various ministries to designate a range of positions requiring French-language capability, held information meetings on the government's French-language services policy for regional office employees and begun implementing various recommendations of the 1982 study on French-language services. In fact, 16 of the study's 72 recommendations have already been implemented and 32 are in the process of being implemented.

As an information vehicle, the office provides a 10-minute videotape on French-language services. This material is used at employee information meetings organized by ministry co-ordinators of French-language services. An information kit explaining the government's French-language policy, the responsibilities of the office and a directory of the government offices providing French-language services was also produced for the first time.

During 1983-84, the office of the co-ordinator carried out its annual information campaign. The effectiveness of this campaign was demonstrated by a substantial increase in the number of calls from the public received by Renseignements-Ontario, the office's toll-free telephone information service. During the 22 weeks of the campaign, the number of calls increased by 45 per cent, and more than half the people who called Renseignements-Ontario were first-time users of the service.

Finally, through another program, the community projects support fund, the office helped 85 community organizations to develop or implement services and activities for the French-speaking population throughout Ontario. Because of the increasing demand for assistance and because of the improved quality of the program ideas submitted, the government has decided to increase the allocation to the support fund from \$425,000 in 1983-84 to \$500,000 in 1984-85.

In terms of the action the government as a whole plans to take in the coming year with regard to French-language services guarantees, 1984 will be a very important year. During the current session of the Legislature, a number of bills containing provisions for French-language services will be introduced.

In education, the government intends to recognize the fundamental right of every English- or French-speaking student to an education in his or her language. In effect, this will remove the "where numbers warrant" clause in legislation governing minority-language education in Ontario. This amendment to the Education Act will go even further than guarantees currently provided by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Canadian Constitution.

This proposed legislation will also enable the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) to take appropriate action if a school board does not accept the recommendations of the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario regarding the establishment of minority language instructional units or schools or other related matters.

8:40 p.m.

Following the consultation process which is going on, further amendments will be introduced later to the Education Act to require some school boards to set up minority-language units made up of trustees elected by voters from the minority-language group. It is intended that these units will have the power to make decisions on educational programs and services for the school board's minority-language students.

In the area of justice, the Courts of Justice Act, making French an official language of the courts of Ontario, has now become law. It was given royal assent this week and it will take effect on January 1, 1985. This new law will guarantee the rights of all French-speaking citizens of the province to a trial in their own language.

In the area of social services, we are currently in the process of revising and consolidating child and family law. One of the many new initiatives that will be included in a bill slated for introduction later this spring is a provision for French-language services for francophone children and for families.

In addition, the recent speech from the throne announced that the government would undertake "to increase the supply of French-speaking health care workers and ensure a better distribution of health services in French-speaking areas." I understand the Ministry of Health has already initiated five major projects to achieve this objective.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to say a few words about the work and achievements of the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, or CAFO, le Conseil des Affaires franco-ontariennes. During 1983, CAFO kept in constant touch with the Franco-Ontarian community, held public consultations and advised

the government on a number of issues such as arts and culture, libraries, telecommunications, health and social services, sports and fitness, legal services, school governance and the status of women.

I would also like to thank Dr. Jérôme Corbeil, who so graciously accepted the difficult—

Mr. Boudria: He is one of my constituents.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I recognize that. He accepted the difficult responsibility of acting chairman of the council for three and a half months after the chairman, Mr. Roger Régimbal, fell gravely ill last December. Dr. Corbeil and Mr. Régimbal, as well as their able executive secretary, Miss Denyse Nazaire, must be congratulated for their dedication and for CAFO's achievements in 1983-1984. I am very pleased to inform the House that Mr. Régimbal is back on the job again now and recovering well.

Mr. Roy: Glad to hear it. Is that because he is not attending any more Conservative conventions?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I can guarantee my friend that he will not be at the Liberal convention.

Mr. Boudria: I think you can also guarantee that he will not be at the other one any more either.

Mr. Roy: He will not be at that one until after the next election.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Honourable members, control yourselves.

Hon. Mr. Wells: In conclusion, I would like to point out that the government's French-language services have not been developed in a vacuum. They are the product of significant social and attitudinal changes on the part of Ontario's population. These changes have resulted in an increased awareness and understanding of the needs and aspirations of Ontario's francophone population. This in itself is no small achievement. What we have accomplished in a relatively short period of time is dramatic.

We have tried to ensure that we have the support of all the people of Ontario for our policy. Progress, while steady, may not have been as rapid as some people might have hoped, but it has resulted in vastly increased services to our province's francophones, backed up by legislative guarantees that will stand the test of time and that have the acceptance of the majority of the province's population.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, my colleagues and I sitting here recognize that, as usual, the minister has been very effective in making a very magnanimous, all-encompassing opening state-

ment. We thank the minister for covering very important areas of his ministry in his opening statement. He always has a way of minimizing his efforts. He said he had a short opening statement, but I point out that it was some 30 pages and has taken some 45 minutes. It was quite all-encompassing.

This year my colleagues and I were waiting for something else. We were sitting here breathlessly, hoping that in this 30-page, 45-minute opening statement we would get some answers to certain questions all of us have asked different ministers and I have asked this minister specifically.

Some of the questions are very legitimate. For instance, would the minister indicate the amount spent by his ministry on management and consulting services? That sounds legitimate. When I got here this evening and I saw there were 30 pages, I said to myself, "He is answering in this statement." I thought for sure it was in this opening statement, but there was no such answer.

Are there any answers to the questions of how much was spent on technical consulting services, on communication services, on legal services, on research and development services, on creative communication services as defined by the Manual of Administration of the Management Board of Cabinet for fiscal years 1978-79 to 1982-83 inclusive? I thought we might see some answers to these questions.

Mr. Kerrio: Why don't you put them on the order paper?

Mr. Roy: My colleague the member for Niagara Falls asks why we did not put them on the order paper. We did.

Mr. Ruston: I remember that.

Mr. Wrye: It was a month or so ago.

Mr. Boudria: What did the government answer?

Mr. Roy: We will talk about the minister's response later, but I thought he would have indicated the number of contracts involved in each of the categories in these fiscal years. I thought the minister might answer questions like: "What is the total advertising budget for your ministry?" I thought that was a legitimate question.

I thought he would answer questions about the number of employees directly responsible for communication with the public and the press and the total salaries in the information branch of his ministry or any agencies and boards of that ministry. I thought these were legitimate ques-

tions. That is what estimates are all about. I thought he would tell us the number of clerical and support and contract staff who assist communication officers and their total salaries for the fiscal year 1982-83. I would like to know that.

Mr. Bradley: The whole gravy train.

Mr. Roy: Yes. That is right. I would like to know that. I would like to know whether the ministry has commissioned any public opinion polls—

Mr. Wrye: They do not do public opinion polls.

Mr. Roy: I ask my colleague, is that an unfair question?

Mr. Wrye: Very reasonable. Freedom of information.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, if you want to participate in this debate, would it be unfair to ask this question?

The Deputy Chairman: I ask the member not to keep asking all the other members.

Mr. Roy: I cannot restrain my friends. They are waiting breathlessly to find out whether there are any answers to all these questions.

The Deputy Chairman: Please exercise restraint. We have used the sword once already today.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, with respect, you have kicked more people out of this House than anybody else in authority.

Mr. Roy: Besides, it is a new sword and we do not want to break it in too quickly.

I ask the minister whether he will table public opinion polls commissioned by the government during the fiscal years 1981-82 and 1982-83. Will the minister indicate the cost of each poll? These are public funds.

Mr. Bradley: If he did that, he would be flying with the eagles.

Mr. Roy: That is right. What is the cost of these polls? Which companies took the polls? Were the undertakings tendered or not? I thought tendering of contracts was a fair question.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: That is like tendering boats, is it not?

Mr. Roy: That is right. I would have thought the minister might answer another question that was asked of the minister. For instance, would the minister indicate how many vehicles are rented, leased or owned by the ministry? What is the expense incurred and the description and

model of these vehicles? We are asking what is Omer driving out there in Brussels. That is a fair question, I would have thought. But no answer. I looked all through the statement, and there was nothing there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What is he driving? He is driving his own car.

Mr. Roy: The minister is now saying he is driving his own car.

Other questions were asked. I asked the minister to indicate the number of people who are employed by the ministry by contract or otherwise. We know this government has bragged consistently about holding down the number of public servants. Let us find out the number on contract.

Mr. Epp: Two sets of books.

Mr. Kerrio: Two sets of books.

Mr. Roy: Some of my friends are suggesting there are two sets of books. I would not suggest that of this minister, but I would have thought that if he had nothing to hide he might have said something about this in his statement. There is nothing at all—not a word.

I asked finally about the number of trips taken out of the country in that ministry. That is a fair enough statement. I am talking about public expense now. My colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and I went out of the country to visit Mr. Dunlap, our agent general in New York. We did not go at public expense. We went at our own expense to visit the office and see what was happening.

We thought it would be a fair question to find out the number of trips taken outside of Canada by the minister, the deputy minister, the assistant deputy ministers, all at public expense. We thought that was a fair question.

In any event, my colleagues and I put all these questions asked of various ministries on Orders and Notices.

Mr. Boudria: And what was the answer?

Mr. Roy: The minister answered. We got what they call a temporary answer in April 1984. They availed themselves of standing order 81(d) which states the government may decline to answer written questions where "the numbers of questions posed or the complexity thereof has been exceeded in the view of the government."

Then the minister went on to say this:

"It is submitted that there are indeed additional avenues of information which may be utilized in this instance. The government has referred to them on previous occasions, but they bear repeating. They include the public accounts of

Ontario, the legislative library"—they say we can go to the library—"the ministry libraries, the caucus research offices"—the resources of which have been increased considerably in recent years—"and, of course, the estimates process."

Mr. Boudria: That is what we are doing right now.

Mr. Roy: That is right. He said: "The estimates represent a major activity in the life of the Legislature. Each year, hundreds of hours are provided during which members may discuss the expenditure transactions of every ministry."

They said: "No. We will not answer the order paper questions; they are too complicated. Ask them during the estimates of the ministry."

Mr. Kerrio: And here we are.

Mr. Roy: So here we are. In fact, some of my colleagues have received letters from individual ministers, saying: "If you want to ask those questions, do it during estimates."

What did we do? We thought we would send a nice, friendly letter to the minister. In it, I said: "I am enclosing a series of questions..."—which I just repeated. "These questions have been asked last year by way of order paper which your ministry declined to answer on the grounds that these questions would more properly be the subject of discussions during the committee deliberations of the ministry estimates."

"Such a reply I find totally unsatisfactory and indeed lacking any logical basis whatsoever. However, if it remains your intention that such a policy applies to the order paper questions which are herein enclosed, then I would like this letter to serve as notice"—we said to the minister at that time—"this letter to serve as notice of my expectation that you will provide answers to these questions in your opening statement of your ministry's estimates."

"These questions which I have placed on the order paper relate specifically to spending practices of your ministry. I trust you will agree that the members of the Legislature and the public at large have a right to an accounting of how the taxpayers' moneys are spent."

I thought the discussions were friendly. I see the minister and his officials are scrambling under the gallery. They are calling a huddle, in fact. What is going on?

How are we going to get answers? Do we have to get on our knees? Do we have to crawl across the aisle and ask the minister? Do we have to whisper in his ear to get some answers? What do we have to do?

The minister chose on this particular occasion not to answer our questions and therefore left us

no alternative. I, on behalf of my colleagues, move under standing order 85, that the Chairman rise and report.

The Deputy Chairman: You are not really asking for the right thing under section 85. Do you want to continue committee discussion on the point?

Mr. Roy: I have made a motion, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Roy moves that the committee rise and report.

10:31 p.m.

The committee divided on Mr. Roy's motion that the committee rise and report, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 24; nays 49.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, considering the hour, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I would like to say that for about an hour and three quarters we have all stood around doing something different from the normal procedures of this House while the opposition waited for answers to questions they never put in the estimates. I think it is a rather strange spectacle for those who believe they want the business of this House to be carried on.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, for more than a year, my colleagues and I have been waiting for answers about the expenditure of public funds.

Interjections.

An hon. member: You tell us all about it, Albert—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I have never had one day when I said "Order" so many times; and I have never had one day when this House has listened so poorly.

Mr. Roy: For a year, my colleagues and I have been waiting for answers about the expenditures of public funds.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Why not wait around a bit more and ask questions?

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Is the jock strap too tight?

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: If necessary, we will wait a lot longer because we insist on getting answers to these questions.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Just wait until tomorrow.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, May 4, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 4, 1984

The House met at 10:05 a.m.

Prayers.

REMARKS BY MEMBER

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that yesterday the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) was asked to withdraw an unparliamentary remark and subsequently was asked to leave the House. The member for Hamilton Centre has taken her seat again this morning, and she has not withdrawn the unparliamentary remark.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is making his point.

Mr. McClellan: I would like to remind the House of discussions that have taken place on this very issue. Very briefly, on June 8, 1979, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) said with respect to an unparliamentary remark made by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel):

"The rules say that accusing another honourable member of uttering a deliberate untruth...is against the rules and, certainly, against the accepted practice of this House and any civilized group...I would suggest to you, as moderately but as strongly as I can"—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: I think this is a civilized group. The House is a civilized group.

"I would suggest to you, as moderately but as strongly as I can, that until that statement is withdrawn it is extremely difficult for us in this House to carry on with the business as we should."

Second, during the same point of order the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) stated:

"Uttering a deliberate falsehood is lying; if that word is used, it must be withdrawn if we are to have any semblance of continuing order in this House. If that rule is broken, then the matter of using insulting language—in item 11—or speaking disrespectfully of Her Majesty or of others in authority—in item 12—or whatever it may be, will all come apart. We will have lost whatever civility we could hope to have in this House."

Finally, on June 7, 1982, again on a similar point of order with respect to a similar issue of an unparliamentary remark, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk said again:

"We have had this argument in the past, and I feel very strongly that a member should not resume his or her seat until the offending words are withdrawn. I do not believe there should be any exceptions to that."

I would simply like to ask you, sir, to invite the member for Hamilton Centre to withdraw her unparliamentary remarks of yesterday, and I leave it with you.

The Deputy Speaker: In reply to the member's inquiry, I would just remind him that we did permit the comments, of course, but I would also remind him that standing order 20(b) provides very clearly as to the situation where a member is named by the Speaker, as happened yesterday. It was a matter of withdrawal for the balance of that day. As this order clearly outlines for us, that is the full extent of the provision.

The matter rests; that is the end of it, and I wonder if we might get on with statements by the ministry.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: This concerns the government's lack of freedom of information. For the past four months I have had one of our researchers attempting to track down a list of all the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development projects and allocations.

When we first checked with Treasury in early January, we were told it would be available in a few weeks. In a few weeks the target date had become the end of February. When the end of February rolled around, we were told the list was being consolidated and would be available in mid-March. It is now early May and the list is still lost in limbo.

We can all recall the great fanfare with which the government celebrated the announcement of "bilge." On the first anniversary in January 1982, a glossy booklet and several printed pamphlets were produced. A year later a much smaller publication accompanied a second anniversary

show at Queen's Park. This year the third anniversary passed wholly unheralded.

The government has obviously given up trying to sell BILD as anything substantial.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. T. P. Reid: How can we in this House do our job if this government is going to continue to withhold from us information that should be public?

The Deputy Speaker: I would really suggest, with all due respect to the member, that question period is approaching and that might be a more appropriate time to raise the point.

Mr. Roy: We tried it in estimates. They will not give us the answers. What are you hiding?

Hon. Mr. Pope: You never even asked the questions. You don't even know how to ask the questions. That's how bright you are.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

REFERRAL OF REPORT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: This concerns certain proceedings not only of this House but also of the standing committee on resources development. I think it is a matter that, if I may say so, is of fundamental importance with respect to the rights of this assembly and with respect to the rights of any assembly to conduct its business and to conduct its inquiries.

You will recall that the annual report of the Ministry of Labour was referred to the resources development committee by our party, by a number of our members signing, as is ordinarily done, and this matter was referred. A specific motion was before the committee last night, moved by my colleague—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I was in attendance last evening and, with all due respect to the member, there was only a report of progress by the committee. The House does not have any—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The same applies.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, if you would allow me to complete a few sentences, I would appreciate it, because I think it is a matter of privilege affecting not only myself but also other members of the assembly.

We have a Ministry of Labour and a minister—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I ask you to allow a fundamental question to be put to you. At least listen to what I have to say.

The Deputy Speaker: I want to remind the member before he proceeds that he is probably proceeding on something he knows is out of order.

Mr. Rae: No, it is not.

The Deputy Speaker: Just a moment. Regarding committee matters, you know this House and this Speaker have nothing to say about what goes on in those committees. We will deal with the report when it comes forward.

Mr. Rae: With great respect, not only does it involve matters before a committee, it involves matters before the House. There is a question here regarding the conduct of the Ministry of Labour and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay).

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: You are not even giving me a chance. It is a question of freedom of speech in this assembly and the ability of this assembly to do its work. It is a question of the Minister of Labour hiding behind a private lawsuit carried out by civil servants against a newspaper in this province.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I am on my feet.

Nobody is talking about freedom of speech. We have proper procedures in our rules of order for any member to raise questions. I suggest that opportunity is there for the member later this morning.

Mr. Rae: If you would just give me—

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry. We are not entering into any debate. There is no provision for that. You know the opportunities that are available.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: With great respect, I want to ask you very directly, are you going to allow me at least to put a case before you? I will put it before you in three minutes and you can refer it and consider it.

Are you saying you are not even going to listen to what we have to say with respect to the privileges of this House? Is that the ruling you are now making?

The Deputy Speaker: No. I was answering the member on the matter he was raising.

Mr. Rae: You do not even know what I was going to say.

The Deputy Speaker: You mentioned it had to do with some feelings you had about a committee, and I was reminding you that this House and the Speaker will deal with that when a report comes forward. Now you are raising a point of personal privilege. I was merely

reminding you that you have an opportunity to raise those concerns in question period.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

The Deputy Speaker: I will hear the member, but this will be the last time.

Mr. Rae: With great respect, unless you are saying I can ask you questions during question period, I do not see how this can possibly be a matter for question period. This is a matter I am asking you to consider. I ask you to listen, briefly, to what I have to say.

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry.

Mr. Rae: This is unbelievable. I cannot believe it.

The Deputy Speaker: There is nothing before this House on the matter to which you referred.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How do you know?

Mr. Rae: How do you know what I am referring to?

The Deputy Speaker: Oh, yes. I permitted the member ample opportunity to refer to—

Mr. Rae: You do not even know what I am going to say.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member has mentioned the Minister of Labour; he has mentioned the committee. There is no such thing before this House. I simply remind the member of that fact and ask that we move on to statements by the ministry.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: You cannot make a ruling on a point of privilege before you have heard the point of privilege. It does not make sense.

The Deputy Speaker: No. My last comment—

Mr. McClellan: Are you making a formal ruling that members cannot raise a point of privilege?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. In answering the latest question of privilege by the member for York South (Mr. Rae), I did explain that his question of privilege was not in order because he is proposing to talk about something that is not before this House.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The question that is before the House is that asked by the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid). The fact is that your office—we are not flogging you, but your chair—allows the government to stonewall on all the questions we put to them. It is your job to see that we are looked after over here and you are not doing it.

The Deputy Speaker: On the honourable member's question of privilege, I would simply say the comments are also out of order.

I would again ask if there are any statements by the ministry?

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want you to make a ruling as to whether you intend to hear the point of privilege of the member for York South. I submit to you that you cannot make a ruling on whether a point is a valid point of privilege before you have heard it. This is a preposterous notion. Are you saying, as a formal ruling of the chair, you are refusing to listen to a point of privilege?

The Deputy Speaker: No. With all due respect, I was saying I did hear the member's point of privilege. I simply said my ruling was we were not going to debate it. Our rules do not permit that.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if that is your ruling, I say you are refusing to even allow me the courtesy, as a member of this Legislature, to spend two or three minutes asserting what I believe are the privileges of this assembly as opposed to the privileges of civil servants who take personal actions and libel suits against newspapers.

If you are not prepared to hear that as a matter of personal privilege of a member of this Legislature, I have no alternative but to challenge your decision.

11 a.m.

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes

Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Birch, Boudria, Bradley, Breithaupt, Conway, Copps, Cousens, Davis, Dean, Eaton, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Hennessy, Hodgson, Kells, Kennedy, Kerrio, Kolyn, Leluk, McKessock, McLean, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, Norton, Peterson, Piché, Pope, Ramsay, Reid, T. P., Riddell, Robinson, Rotenberg, Roy, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scrivener, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Welch, Wells, Williams, Worton.

Nays

Breaugh, Charlton, Di Santo, Foulds, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Mackenzie, McClellan, Philip, Rae, Swart.

Ayes 55; nays 11.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to express our very serious concern about this matter and make the suggestion that it be referred to the House leaders at the earliest possible opportunity. It is clear from the

question you put to the House on the vote that you have still not understood the point that was being raised by the member for York South.

I want to suggest that the House leaders go about it as quickly as possible.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member is out of order.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the members that today the Ministry of Revenue mailed some 577,000 interim Ontario tax grant cheques totalling nearly \$143 million to eligible senior citizens throughout the province.

These cheques are combined payments of 1984 interim property tax grants and temporary home heating grants. The interim property tax grant portion of the cheque is calculated as 50 per cent of the seniors' 1983 property tax grant, to a maximum of \$250. To that amount is added the temporary home heating grant, which this year equals \$20 per household. The maximum possible value of each cheque is therefore \$270, while the average cheque is \$247.

As many members will be aware, the mailing of these interim cheques marks the beginning of the 1984 Ontario tax grants for seniors program cycle. In September, seniors throughout the province will receive an application form which will determine the amount of the second instalment of their 1984 grant.

Seniors who turned 65 after December 31, 1983, will not receive the interim or first instalment of the 1984 grant. They will, however, receive an application form this fall and may apply for the full 1984 grant at that time.

As well, all seniors will receive in December a sales tax grant of \$50.

Once again information about the mailing of these grant cheques is being provided to all constituency offices and other key government outlets, such as northern affairs offices and community information centres, through the mailing of information bulletins and comprehensive information kits.

In the past, these information kits have proved an important resource for staff in these offices who provide valuable support to the tax grants program through their inquiry and referral services.

I know my ministry can rely on the continued co-operation and assistance of members' constituency offices and staff in the continuing successful administration of this program.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier in the absence of the Minister of the Environment, and it relates to the hearing that is going on—actually it was adjourned yesterday—with respect to the S area dump and his representatives there through the Ministry of the Environment.

The Premier is aware that the ministry and its representatives have virtually been humiliated in that court because of their lack of preparedness and because they were not informed of the issues. Indeed, the hearing had to be adjourned because the judge was so embarrassed on behalf of those representatives, calling their cross-examination silly and contradictory and being very disparaging of the entire performance that the ministry put on as they nudged aside and muscled out other groups that could have represented Ontario more ably.

What instructions is the Premier putting to the ministry's representatives to rectify the serious damage that has been done already to the case for clean drinking water for millions of Ontario residents?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the minister yesterday deal with this issue in response to the Leader of the Opposition. He indicated he had confidence in the capacity of those individuals representing the ministry and the government of this province.

I understand the hearing has been adjourned. I am not going to comment on observations made by the judge or whoever was in charge of the proceedings. It is not in my capacity to do so, and I question whether I would in any event.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier can turn a blind eye to this matter if he will, but if he compared what he is saying with the statement of the minister in the House on April 10, expressing a strong commitment and then subsequent to that having a contradictory and indeed weak and inadequate case, I am sure if he were apprised of the facts he would be very embarrassed about what is going on with this government.

Why would those officials not choose to take advantage of experts who have been working on this case for a long period of time? I am talking about Grant Anderson, a hydrology expert, Dr. John Coburn, Dr. Andrew Benedek and Dr. Ross Hume Hall, experts in the field who were ready and prepared to testify. The ministry took in quickie experts who had not read all the

documentation, were not fully apprised of the facts and embarrassed Ontario.

Why did the ministry choose to muscle aside groups that could have presented a far better case for Ontario and to put on its own case, which has turned out to be so inadequate in the circumstances?

11:10 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really think this question was asked yesterday. I know the member's colleague had by then taken over the interests of a lot of our friends in the media, but I think the minister answered that very adequately yesterday. No one is pushing anyone aside.

Mr. Peterson: No, he did not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, that is a question of judgement. The member asked, without using the names, the same question yesterday.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Premier will know—or if he does not know, perhaps he should—that both Pollution Probe and Operation Clean Niagara were very concerned about the possibility of the Ministry of the Environment moving in and then bungling the case. They made those representations to the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) when he was Minister of the Environment, and he will recall those comments. The thing that concerns me is that what they feared would happen appears to be happening.

Why were these volunteer groups, which had so much to contribute to the debate and whose expertise was so great, shunted aside? They put so much work into it; they have the experts; they had hired counsel. Why were they shoved aside for the ministry when the ministry was clearly not as prepared as they were to put a better case before the American courts to protect the drinking water of four million citizens in this province, and their children and their grandchildren, who rely on Lake Ontario for their drinking water?

It is our resource. Why did the government shunt those people aside and insist on putting forward a bungled case?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would just pose the other side of the question of the member for York South. If the government of Ontario had not intervened in what I assume is a judicial process, if we did not have carriage of this activity, I would be very surprised if the member for York South would not be up on his feet asking, "Why have you not?"

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, the Premier will understand that last July when the minister was newly appointed he undertook, after representations were made from this side of the House with respect to the application for intervenor status, that in effect he would go out of his way to accommodate some serious deliberations with the people at Pollution Probe, who at that time had already amassed a good deal of information.

Why did the ministry officials who are presenting the case to Judge Curtin—which judge, I might tell the Premier, has received information in a previous case from Pollution Probe and understands and knows the type of preparation they are involved in—not hold those consultations with Pollution Probe and the other public interest groups? Why was the ministry so ill-prepared with respect to the information they offered this hearing in New York state this week?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I guess, unlike the honourable member, I have not been present at any of these discussions in the state of New York. My understanding, as I listened to the minister yesterday and from the information I obtained early this morning, was that the case is not complete.

Mr. Peterson: They can introduce no new evidence after yesterday. They put the case forward and presented their case. You know the facts.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition on occasion tends to move in advance of events. I listened to the minister yesterday and, in that the case is not concluded, the member should perhaps withhold his judgement until it is completed.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the first minister. In recent weeks the House has been treated through the throne speech to this government's increasing emphasis on international trade. In recent hours no less a person than the government House leader, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), has stood in his place and reiterated how very important international trade will be, particularly in the Pacific Rim, to the economic recovery of Ontario.

Mindful of that and mindful that the Premier himself last fall, very properly in my view but at considerable public expense, led a large delegation of officials into southeast Asia to advertise the wares of Ontario and to invite leaders from that part of the world to come and see beautiful

Ontario and consider it as a place for investment, I have a question for the Premier.

When the leader of the world's greatest markets, namely, the Premier of China, Zhao Ziyang, came to Ontario in January 1984, why did the Premier not think it worth his while to leave a holiday in southern Florida to come to the city of Toronto and give a prime ministerial welcome to the leader of the world's greatest markets?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think it was very clearly understood by that country and the leader of that country. It is interesting that not only did they understand it but also our relationships and negotiations for a possible twinning with one of the provinces of China have been moving forward in a very positive way. I expressed my regrets to that very distinguished gentleman.

I am delighted to see the member for Renfrew North is so concerned about my personal activities that he would raise this question in that fashion.

Mr. Conway: I am very concerned, because the government has made it very clear that international trade is a major thrust for the economic recovery of this province.

What does it say when the leader of this government, having spent tens of thousands of dollars going into southeast Asian regions to tender an invitation, then apparently rejected the strong advice of his own Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs to break his holiday, for a few hours at least, to travel north to welcome the leader of the world's greatest markets? The Premier rejected his own government's internal advice and felt the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida, was more important than coming north for a few hours—

The Deputy Speaker: What is the question?

Mr. Conway: —to welcome the leader of the world's greatest markets, who came to Toronto and to Ontario to accept the invitations extended by the Premier some five months earlier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: First, I am really intrigued that some several months after this event took place, the member for Renfrew North is taking an interest in it. Second, I guess what we read in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record was correct. Third, I was not at the Super Bowl. Other than that, the member is okay.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Is the Premier denying it was Super Bowl weekend and is he denying he was in Tampa that weekend?

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wish the honourable member for once had been a little bit decent and asked me. I would have told him: "Yes, I was there, but in a different place. I was not at the Super Bowl and I was not in Tampa." I know it disappoints and upsets the member, and probably his leader will take him off the Big Three list, but he has made a mistake.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Renfrew North is out of order.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

The Deputy Speaker: May I suggest the member defer his point of privilege. We are in the midst of a supplementary.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Premier has to clear up this mystery. If he was in the Everglades having his teeth sharpened, he should at least let us know; or if he was in Disneyland preparing the next budget, he should let us know. These should be matters of public record. I think my supplementary raises a very important question.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I think this is a vital question. It is very important.

11:20 a.m.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. Rae: Moving right along, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. I would like to ask him why his government is now refusing to answer questions directly relating to the enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, not only at Westinghouse but also right across the province. The motion by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) referred to matters right across the province.

Why is the minister refusing to answer those questions when the only legal proceeding that is now outstanding is a purely private action, a writ of summons issued in January by Mr. Thomas E. Armstrong and Mr. Lawrence Bergie against the Torstar Corp., the Toronto Star newspaper and Mr. John Deverell? Why is the minister refusing to answer questions, and why have members of his party refused to allow an investigation to proceed with respect to the enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I have said before in this Legislature.

I sought out learned legal counsel, independent legal counsel outside of our ministry—very distinguished legal counsel, in fact—and asked his advice as to the course of action I should take. I have followed the course of action he has recommended to me, and I certainly prefer that to the advice I have been getting from the third party.

Mr. Rae: It took the Ministry of Labour nine months to decide to prosecute as a result of charges arising from an incident that left a worker blind and permanently damaged. It took the ministry nine months to respond to the urgings not only of that worker but also of his family and of Mr. Stanley Gray. It took a very long time for the ministry to finally decide to lay charges.

Is the minister saying we are not going to be able to ask questions, not of the deputy minister, not of Mr. Bergie, but of him, as the minister responsible politically for that matter in this assembly, because his deputy minister has decided to go out and sue a newspaper? Is that what he is suggesting to this House?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not suggesting that at all. I am suggesting that at this time I am not prepared to answer any questions.

Further, I want to point out that there is a complaint by Mr. Gray against Westinghouse. That was adjourned pending the decision in the case against Mr. Bergie. To my knowledge, this case is still outstanding, in addition to the cases the leader of the third party has referred to in the civil court.

Mr. Rae: The minister knows full well that a private action for defamation can take years to settle in a court and that the individuals who launched that suit can decide to keep it in court and delay it. They can keep it before the courts for years. The minister is suggesting that the deputy minister of any ministry in the government of Ontario can decide to sue a newspaper or a reporter and keep the matter out of this assembly or one of its committees for years and prevent us from doing our job. That is the implication of what the minister is saying.

How can the minister possibly prevent us from doing our job by asking him political questions with respect to the enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act when the lives and the health of literally millions of Ontario workers are at stake?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The honourable member and his colleagues can ask me any questions they want about the Occupational Health and Safety Act, other than those involving Westinghouse. I also make this point: we have 20 hours of

estimates, more than most other ministries, and we will be prepared to answer any and all questions which they want to ask on the Occupational Health and Safety Act during those estimate periods.

TAX BURDEN

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. It concerns the unbelievably unfair tax system which has grown up in this province over a number of years.

The Treasurer will know—and if he does not, I shall remind him—that the 1981 budget raised the taxes of the average family by \$179. At the end of 1982, an average family paid \$544 more than it did before the 1981 budget. At the end of 1983, an average family paid \$718 more than it did before the 1981 budget.

Will the Treasurer in this budget start giving some of that money back to the average workers of this province and to the average families in this province, who have literally been bilked by his government since the 1981 election?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Wait until May 15.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. Thank you; let the honourable member wait until May 15.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is getting his directions from the Liberal Party, which has very close ties to the tax system in Ottawa; that has contributed to the incredible bilking of the average working family in this province.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Question, please.

Mr. Rae: At a time when every major analyst is saying it is the inability of the average family to buy the goods their neighbours are producing and that it is the lack of purchasing power in the economy which is keeping the recovery back, why is the Treasurer going around the province talking about the need to continue to raise taxes when he has already stuck the average family for \$718 over the last two and a half years?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Regarding some of those increases, it is important to remember that in the period of time the member is talking about, roughly speaking, we could say that since 1981, as a society and a population, we have spent perhaps \$3 billion or \$4 billion more on health care in that period, just to take one major portion. One could add several billion dollars to that to reflect the increased commitment of this government to those who have been most in need during the recession that has covered most of the period the member is talking about.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is not true. That is outrageous.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is not only not untrue and not outrageous, but if the member will read Ontario Finances and look at all the information laid before this House in the past several years, he will find out that the only two areas that have undergone significant increases with respect to government budgets since 1981 are the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. That is a fact.

Mr. Swart: Advertising.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is not so. It is those two ministries that have undergone the only real growth since 1981. That is where the additional money is being spent. That has increased our commitment. With those two ministries, I guess we are talking about a total of \$5 billion since 1981. To suggest that is not going to have to be paid for by all members of our society is to be frivolous.

With regard to the apportionment of tax loads and benefits, I think it would be fair to comment that if one looks at the increased benefits over those four or five years, one will find that almost all those benefits have accrued to the very people the member is talking about. While their tax loads have increased, the fact is that they have been increased to provide services to those very same people.

As a further indication that it is an obvious truth that the increase in benefits to those people has outstripped their tax increases is the fact that we are carrying a significantly larger deficit right now, a much larger deficit than four years ago, which we have chosen to carry because we believe those people, until now, have not been able to carry the appropriate increase in tax burden.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a two-part question for the Treasurer. Is he ever going to provide us with the information about the little shell game of knocking \$350 million out of the last budget? Does he remember the decreases that were to be provided? Can the Treasurer give us an assurance today that his social services maintenance tax of 2.5 per cent which was tacked on last year will be done away with, or has this now become a permanent fixture of the Ontario provincial income tax?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the information the member has suggested on the first count has to some extent already been referred to with respect to Ontario Finances. Second, with regard to our decisions on the social

services maintenance tax, obviously it has been an important tax source and obviously some of the problems and increased costs that caused us to introduce that tax a year ago have not entirely passed.

None the less, an announcement with regard to the final decision will have to await the budget on May 15 in the afternoon at four o'clock. The member should drop in.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer can try to dance his way out of it any way he wants, but the hard fact remains that it is the personal taxes of lower-income people in this province that have gone up dramatically in the last three years under the Tory government, with respect to Ontario health insurance plan premiums, personal income tax and the social services maintenance tax.

11:30 a.m.

That is the unfairness we are trying to get the Treasurer to address. It is the gross unfairness of the kinds of settlements he made with the doctors—

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: —or the kinds of transfer payments that have taken place to the rich away from the average family that we are objecting to.

Does the Treasurer think the purchasing power of the average Ontarian is a problem today? Does he think the inability to purchase is a problem? Does he disagree with all those observers who say that it is the lack of a real consumer recovery that is holding back recovery in Ontario today?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me first remind the member that what has gone up since 1981 are services, which have increased dramatically. Those services, obviously, have to be paid for as we go. As well as increasing those services, and increasing the tax load, of course, we have also increased the deficit. This means that we have already decided to defer paying for some of those things until a later time. What Treasurers have to do from time to time is determine how much of that is going to be borrowed in the future and how much can be paid for now.

Second, the member talked about transfers. I want to remind him that 72 per cent of the budget does not go on the kinds of transfers he suggests but goes in transfer payments to the health care system, to hospitals, to school boards, municipalities and colleges and universities. When the member suggests that our transfers are too high, what he is saying to the municipalities, school boards, colleges and universities and the health care system, which takes 72 per cent of our

dollars, is those transfers are too high. Frankly, I do not hear the member saying that.

Mr. Foulds: That is right. The minister is hearing himself say that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Of course, because the member wants to give a different story, depending on where he is.

Mr. Foulds: No, no, that is the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We understand that.

Finally, if the member wants to talk about the ability of the consumer to purchase in this climate and the importance of consumption to the recovery, the fact is, I think everyone would agree, that what is inhibiting consumers is uncertainty about the economic climate over the next period of time.

Mr. Foulds: It is called lack of money.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is showing once again the depth, as it were, of his economic knowledge. All serious economic observers, excluding the member himself, have concluded that the concern of consumers is with regard to the future for inflation and the future for interest rates. Consumers, understandably, particularly in Canada, are saying: "We are not going to get burned again. We do not want to find ourselves vulnerable once again to high interest rates."

Therefore, to conclude this economic session for those members—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will leave the members uneducated for the weekend.

VISITOR

Mr. Peterson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Just to cut into this great economic discourse, I observe a very distinguished visitor in your gallery. I know you will allow me to introduce him. He is a distinguished senator, Jack Austin, who carries on his back more problems than any other man in this country. I am sure the members will agree with me that those great problems could not be in better hands. I think we should welcome the distinguished senator to this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege about the incident—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. With all due respect, if it is a question of privilege relating to question period, that would be fine. Otherwise, I would ask that the member hold it until question period is completed, especially this morning when we have had some delay in the early stages.

Mr. Kolyn: All right.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Mr. Davis: She was not in Tampa either.

Mr. Conway: I seem to have ruffled the always tender sensibilities of the first minister.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Ask the question of the minister.

Mr. Conway: I would not want him to suffocate in that Sunday school sanctimony of his.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: The Premier of China was here and he was not. That is the question.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Ask the question.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Conway: I note that earlier this week the minister indicated there would be a 6.8 per cent increase in the funding of the Ontario student assistance program. Might I ask the minister why was a nine-page section on information and instructions deleted from this year's OSAP booklet? It is normally and has been for years a part of the booklet. It is very critical information, explaining in detail the allowable educational expenses. I think the minister will know of what I speak.

Traditionally, the government in that booklet provided nine pages of vital information, outlining in detail the inputs for students' allowable educational expenses. It was expurgated in this year's volume, and there is no doubt it is going to have a very serious impact on the ability of students to make their application and, perhaps even more important, it will jeopardize the capacity of individual students to appeal.

Why was this very important information deleted from this year's information booklet?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, it was not deleted. If it was not there, I think it was probably accidental. I do not know. It was supposed to go out with the booklet. However, I shall investigate the matter and report to the House.

Mr. Conway: I very much appreciate the minister's undertaking. However, surely she would want to agree, given the very significant increase—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I just said I agree.

Mr. Conway: —and additional pressure on these funds, that this kind of information is

critical. Among other things, it contains very important notes about discretionary additional amounts for books, travel and other exceptional expenses which are nowhere to be found in this year's volume.

Will she give an undertaking to report back to this House at the earliest opportunity on what she will do to correct a very serious problem which, among other things, in my view and in the view of student leaders in this province, will negatively affect accessibility to the already strained universities and colleges of this province.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member has put his question. The minister may already have answered.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had. I thought I did agree it was important. I did agree it should be contained in the booklet. I do not know that it has not been contained. There may be some which have gone out without it. I do not know. However, I shall report to the House.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware that the construction workers in the power systems sector of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which includes Ontario Hydro, have voted between 72 and 92 per cent in favour of taking strike action, which will start on Monday.

Does the minister agree with the position of the chief Hydro negotiator, as reported by the union, that they want concessions and are going to get them, particularly in view of the fact these workers have already lost \$1 an hour from what they had negotiated in their 1982 contract, courtesy of Bill 179?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, my position has always been very consistent with respect to offers that are made or offers that are refused in collective bargaining. I do not comment on whether it is a good offer, a bad offer or an indifferent offer, whether the union is acting appropriately in rejecting or accepting it, or whatever the case might be. As Minister of Labour, it is not my function to comment on offers that have been made or on those that have been rejected.

My function is to provide conciliation and mediation services. We have some of the finest professionals on the North American continent acting in that capacity.

Mr. Mackenzie: Does the minister not understand the threat this situation poses to

province-wide bargaining, in that the parity that has been created between the private and public sector workers in the sector of the Electrical Power Systems Construction Association since 1977 is being destroyed. The difference in wages between workers in the same jobs and doing the same things, depending on who employs them, is going to increase.

Will the minister not take steps to try to prevent this tragedy happening, which is going to see a renewal in this province of whipsaw bargaining between the various groups?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We are taking all those necessary steps. We have the chief of our conciliation service, Mr. Ray Illing, one of our very best people, superb in every respect, acting on this matter personally. He is very hopeful and optimistic about reaching a resolution.

11:40 a.m.

COST OF ELECTRICITY

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. It is about a chance for him to save \$100 million.

Is the Premier aware that the documents filed before the Ontario Energy Board by Ontario Hydro indicate it is taking two million pounds of uranium more than it requires to well beyond the year 2000? This two-million pound surplus is costing Hydro consumers over \$100 million per year for uranium we will never need, even in spite of Darlington.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please?

Mr. Sargent: The report of the select committee stated that if either Denison or Preston is found to be making unconscionable profits under its agreement with Ontario Hydro, it should be open to the government to exercise its taxing powers to redress the situation.

No one has been monitoring those profits. As I stated two weeks ago, Denison is enjoying the largest profits in its history.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member put his question?

Mr. Sargent: Why is it that when an important matter comes before the House, you guys up there are censoring what the people of Ontario should put up with.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member knows the rules of order and what is permitted as a preliminary to a question. It is to help the person being questioned to understand the question. I am asking the member to put the question.

Mr. Sargent: Will the Premier please tell the House why he does not exercise his option and take \$100 million a year off the proposed nine per cent rate increase for Hydro. We need it, the people need it and the government has the right to it. Why does it not do it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am always appreciative of advice from the member for Grey-Bruce. One is always looking for ways to save \$100 million. If he looks at it carefully, he will know the Premier of this province does not have any such option. I assume that Denison, Rio Algom and others pay an appropriate share of taxes to the Treasury of the province.

Mr. Sargent: I say kindly to the Premier that he is only part of the act. I know he has a lot of respect for the credibility of the Toronto Star and its editorials. It says the people of Ontario are themselves victims of one of the biggest financial ripoffs in the history of the province.

This thing will not go away. I hate to bother the Premier about it all the time, but he has the option to do these things. He should monitor the profits. They are selling two million pounds more of uranium than we need. It is building up. It will go on beyond the year 2000. No one is doing a damned thing about it. Why does the Premier not at least give it a shot and see what the hell he can do about it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am always prepared to give anything a shot, as I sense the member for Grey-Bruce is prepared to give anything or anybody a shot. Because of the sense in which they are given, I enjoy them more—and I know he will be upset when I refer to this—than the sometimes rather cheap ones of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway).

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am prepared to be lectured in this House about cheap shots, but I will not be lectured about cheap shots from the master of gilt-edged sleaze himself, the Premier of this province.

OPERATION OF LOTTERIES

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for the numbers racket in Ontario. It concerns his latest numbers racket called Shoot to Score.

It would appear to me the minister has engaged in some false and misleading advertising. Why did the minister advertise that on April 17 he would have 20 prizes drawn of \$100,000 in the Shoot to Score lottery when, as of noon yesterday, only five prizes were awarded?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I will look into that, but I do not stand up at the Ontario Lottery Corp. day after day and make sure its games are going the way it is telling the world they are going. I can only say the Ontario Lottery Corp. is the best-managed, best-administered lottery corporation in the entire world.

In any case, I will take the member's question under advisement.

Mr. Breagh: It may be a money-maker, that is for sure, but does the minister not think it is fraudulent to say there will be 20 prizes drawn on April 17 when there are not; when this lottery will continue for the foreseeable future; when there are no beginning, no end, no middle and, worse yet, no prizes being awarded from the lottery? Is that not a little beyond the pale, even for the minister?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: First of all, I would reject any suggestion that what they are doing is fraudulent. The member should think twice before he says that. As I said before, I will look into this and I will look into it with a lot of conviction that all is well. This is a fine, well-run lottery corporation.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, why does the minister always use this whole package as a political slush fund for the Tory party? When he sends out letters to everybody about the thousands of grants he makes every year, they are from the minister. They should be from the member for each riding.

The Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the member, he is out of order. That is not a supplementary to the question put by the member for Oshawa, which had to do with the advertising.

Mr. Sargent: Let him answer the question.

The Deputy Speaker: No. You are out of order.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour, concerning High Park School in Pelham. He will recall the other day I directed the question to the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson).

Can the minister bring us up to date on what progress his ministry has made in securing their proper wages for those people who are teachers at that private school? They have complained to his ministry about being unpaid for a long time and they have received bouncing cheques from the person who is dispensing the funds at High Park

School. What progress has been made in restoring the wages of those individuals?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the circumstances. I am also aware that officials of our employment standards branch have been following up. At the moment, though, I am afraid I am not in a position to give the member an accurate progress report. I will commit myself to doing so on Monday of next week.

Mr. Bradley: Would the minister reveal to the House whether he has had consultations with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) about the appropriateness of the issuing of a licence to operate this business in Ontario in the first place, in view of the fact problems have been experienced in the past with personnel, and there are other reasons the Minister of Education will be well aware of?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: No, I have not done that. We are following our mandate, the statutes we administer through the employment standards branch. We hope to be able to protect the rights of the workers. I am optimistic we will do so.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Premier. Does he agree with the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) in his document, *Economic Transformation: Technological Innovation and Diffusion in Ontario*, when he expresses concern about foreign investment in industries in Ontario, particularly in the high-technology industries?

Does the Premier agree with the following attitudes of the minister?

"Foreign-owned companies in Canada are less research intensive and less innovative than the Canadian counterparts. As a result, opportunities for knowledge-intensive employment may be lost.

"Furthermore, the degree of foreign ownership in Canadian manufacturing has reduced the demands for technological innovation that are placed on Canadian suppliers."

"By international standards, the levels of foreign ownership in high-tech manufacturing industries in Canada are exceptionally high."

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I assume there are three questions there. I will try to deal with them in order. The answer to the first one, asking whether I agree with the statement in the overall statement of the Treasurer that there is not sufficient research and development done, is yes.

11:50 a.m.

The member asked whether I agreed there was a high degree—depending on one's definition of "high"—of foreign ownership in high-tech industries. We would have to decide what people mean by high, but I would say there is a substantial degree of foreign ownership.

What was the third?

Mr. Foulds: Does the Premier think that has harmed employment in Canadian and Ontario industries?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would not relate it just to ownership. I have always expressed the point of view that there should be more research and development done, not only by foreign-owned or partially foreign-owned companies, but by Canadian companies generally.

I have made a number of statements related to the central nature of research and development. We have discussed it with respect to the auto sector. While we can see great improvements in the auto industry, whether in parts or assembly, this province has always had less than its share, in fact almost no share, in the engineering and design aspect of the industry.

If the member has another question relating to that, which he hopes might contradict what I have already said, I will be delighted to receive it.

Mr. Foulds: I take it the Premier shares the concern of the Treasurer on these matters.

I would like to know the policy of the government and how that is squared with the statement of the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) to foreign investors in Frankfurt on February 28 when he said: "Please be assured that as Minister of Industry and Trade I will do everything I can to help you pursue successfully an Ontario foothold in North America. Last year, my ministry helped 650 foreign firms obtain the federal government approval required to invest in Ontario. That is a 96 per cent approval rate, which shows we are seriously committed to attracting offshore capital."

Finally, he said to foreign investors, "We see growth opportunities in telecommunications, CAD/CAM, microelectronics, energy-saving equipment and auto parts," the very sector the Treasurer himself expressed serious concern about.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will endeavour to explain it to the member and speak for the government. There is nothing inconsistent whatsoever.

Mr. Rae: Oh no, nothing at all.

Mr. Foulds: These are just a coincidence.

Mr. Rae: They are just totally different statements, that is all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am trying to be very non-provocative. The leader of the New Democratic Party has consumed an hour of this House's time in order to keep bells ringing. We are now nearing 12 o'clock and we are still in question period. I am even trying to limit my answers.

Mr. McClellan: Isn't that too bad? Try not to muzzle people and it won't happen.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No one is trying to do that. We just go by the rules the Speaker lays down. The leader of the New Democratic Party found a way to get his message across. If he had done that from the outset, we could have saved an hour's time this morning.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He just proved he was right.

Mr. Foulds: Why do you not answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I suggested to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) how he might do it and it worked. He asked me too late. That is the only problem.

Let us get back to the issue. There is nothing inconsistent whatsoever in this province's encouraging the development of new industries here and at the same time encouraging more research and development to be done not only by new industries coming in but by existing industries in the province; nothing inconsistent whatsoever.

If the member thinks it over when he is at home this weekend checking on the swimming lessons or whatever he will be doing, he will be able to rationalize that himself.

PROXIMITY TO LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. It revolves around a consideration now taking place within the Ministry of the Environment to make payments to those people who own houses or land around newly located landfill sites.

Would the Premier undertake to urge the ministry not only to deal with the situations that will be newly imposed on citizens in this province, but to deal with those situations in which people live next door to dump sites the ministry has been unable to monitor properly, resulting in leachate flowing from those sites to the detriment of the people who live adjacent thereto?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will be delighted to express the member's point of view to the minister.

Mr. Elston: Can the Premier tell me what his position is with respect to those payments and considerations, since the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) has expressed a particular opinion about the new dump sites to be established but has said nothing with respect to those sites which are causing serious problems for the citizens of this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: As I say, I will communicate the member's views. The views and the policies of the government will be enunciated by the Minister of the Environment.

HERITAGE LANGUAGES

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. It is with regard to the heritage languages program.

The minister is aware of the tensions that have occurred in the city of Toronto between teachers and school boards, between heritage language children and non heritage language children, between parents who have children in the program and parents who do not. The minister has not said one word about what is happening in the city of Toronto up to now.

She is also aware that as a result of a 1977 memorandum between the Ministry of Education and the school boards, the school boards have been given the power to extend the school day by half an hour. In other words, the government has caused the problems and now, as far as I can see, it is totally quiet about them.

Will the minister tell the House what she is prepared to do and what kind of solutions she or the government has to resolve the situation? It is not just a local problem because the debate is occurring throughout the whole province on the matter. When the minister does answer, can she keep in mind the words of the Premier (Mr. Davis) the other night at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education when he said—I am trying to find the quote—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Grande: Basically, the Premier said, "The very vastness of the range of cultures, origins and"—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect, you are making a statement. Please just put your question and have the minister's reply.

Mr. Grande: All right.

Will the minister tell the House what solutions she or the ministry has, keeping in mind the sensitivity of the remarks the Premier made at OISE the other night? I understand she was present.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I believe the province of Ontario has heeded very clearly the remarks the Premier made at the fourth Jackson lecture on Monday night. The program of heritage languages is by far the most diverse and the most flexible of any such program in Canada. Indeed, I believe of any such programs it is probably a leader of such programs in the world. At least I am led to believe so by the representatives of the various countries from which many of those parents of children involved in heritage languages programs originally emigrated.

The problem is not a governmental problem or a provincial problem. It is, indeed, a problem at a very local level. The board has the responsibility and the right to provide for that program in a way which is not disruptive of the core educational program for students, which does allow them to add an additional half hour to the school day in order to integrate it.

It would seem to me rational in any circumstance that those who are responsible for the delivery of a program and responsible for the establishment of policy would at least take the time to discuss, negotiate and, I would think, conclude with those who are their employees, who will be responsible for helping in that process, the ways in which this can best be done. It is my understanding that this kind of consultation did not take place between the board of the city of Toronto and the teachers employed by the city of Toronto.

I said very clearly in the newspaper not more than two weeks ago it is not a problem which the province can undertake to solve. It is a problem that is entirely local and must be solved by the board and the teachers of the city of Toronto. I believe if they all exercise goodwill, they will find a solution.

12 noon

Mr. Grande: I tried to get the minister to understand that it is not a local problem. The separate school board and other boards in Ontario are undergoing this process as well.

The minister's government has created the heritage languages program. She has allowed school boards to extend the school day by half an hour. The extension of the school day by half an hour is the problem.

The Deputy Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grande: May I ask the minister to take a look at the proposal I sent her back in February, which suggests that she maintain the five instructional hours per day in the schools but allow each board of education in Ontario to use half an hour of those five hours as it sees fit to satisfy the local needs of the community and the children?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would remind the honourable member the Education Act specifies that the core program of education must be delivered within a period of time each day, which is five hours. I do not think the core program should be abrogated in any circumstance. I believe every student in our school system should be given the benefit of that full educational period during the day.

The program suggested by the member would, of course, immediately devour a significant portion of that five-hour program on a daily basis, and I am not sure this would be fair to those who wanted to be involved in the heritage languages program as well.

I also believe the example given to me by some of those who are directly involved in one of the schools facing difficulties in the city of Toronto illustrates the complexity of attempting to integrate the heritage languages program in the way the city of Toronto has done.

In one class, where four groups of students are involved in four different heritage languages programs in one grade, half a dozen students leave at 9:30 in the morning, another six leave at about 10:30 in the morning, five may leave at 11 in the morning and three or four leave at 11:30 in the morning. There are students coming and going all day long within that school and the problem for the teacher is to attempt to consolidate any time during a significant portion of the day for the delivery of the core program.

Therefore, I believe it is absolutely essential that the teachers, the boards and the principals of those schools sit down and talk about the way in which they can, if they wish to do it, integrate the programs so there will not be that kind of disruption to a regular school program.

Other boards in Metropolitan Toronto have managed that integration with very little disruption because they have standardized it in a way that makes it much easier for everyone to cope with, particularly the teachers who are attempting to provide the core program educational experience for the children. I really believe firmly that if goodwill were exercised on both

sides, that solution could be found within the city of Toronto too.

SAFETY OF FISHERMEN

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. I believe the Premier is well aware that last Monday in the little fishing community of Port Dover we had one of the worst tragedies we have had there in 10 years.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Haldimand-Norfolk is putting a question.

Mr. G. I. Miller: The fishing tug Stanley Clipper left early in the morning, at four o'clock. When it came back in at around two o'clock, it was caught in one of the worst storms to hit the area in many years and went down with three young fishermen aboard.

The captain of that boat was a friend who grew up with our young family and who went to Sunday school with them a few years ago. The parents were on shore and were able to hear their concerns by radio communication.

Because the lifesaving equipment, particularly life preservers, is not adequate to give much protection in a storm of that magnitude, would the Premier consider assisting to make sure there is adequate survival equipment for those fishing boats so they do have some protection in disasters of that magnitude?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think we all share the concern expressed by the honourable member with respect to the tragedy that took place. I am not personally familiar with the requirements and regulations. My guess is that those are determined by the federal Department of Transport, or perhaps now by the coast guard regulations. I can assure the member that I will personally see just what the situation is and whether there should be some recommendations—I think it is to the federal government—as to some alteration in those regulations.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I would like to make the Premier aware that survival suits cost in the area of \$1,000. They protect persons against cold for days and will keep them face up in a proper manner. I have discussed this with the fishermen. Some have taken courses at Georgian College in the past few years, and with proper training they feel this would give them some hope if they had that equipment. At \$1,000 per suit, for a crew of three, it would cost \$3,000. I think some incentive from this government—or perhaps it should be a federal responsibility—to make sure

that equipment is available would be appreciated and is needed.

EQUALITY OF EDUCATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. The minister last night held a forum here at the Legislature on poverty and education. Mr. John Bates, with whom I think members are familiar, and a number of the panelists and others in the audience all made the assertion that the province has failed miserably to provide equal access to education for poor kids. They asserted that poor kids are continually being streamed lower than kids from middle-class families; that they end up dropping out of school much more regularly than kids from middle-class families, and that when they do drop out, middle-class kids come back into the system but working-class kids never do.

Can the minister tell me what specific programs she is going to be putting into place to change the cyclical nature of poverty and the fact that kids from poor families tend to be under-educated and therefore do not make it in the upwardly mobile fashion that we had hoped they might?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the educational system in Ontario has always been directed towards the provision of equal educational opportunity for all children no matter what their background might be. That is most certainly the kind of direction which has guided successive Ministers of Education of this province through the 140-odd years since the principle was first established.

I believe the move we have made in the direction of support for the education of exceptional children will address very clearly some of the problems that seem to have arisen with some children within the system over a period of time. I also believe the kinds of redirections of the secondary school program, which are included within Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions, are meant to address the specific concerns of students who study at the general level and students who study at the basic level.

I believe those will assist children to learn the kinds of skills which will make them interested in retaining a place within the educational system until they have achieved the requirements necessary for reasonable fulfilment within society. I believe it will encourage them to achieve the skills which will help them to pursue career goals which they may establish for themselves.

We most certainly have worked very diligently within the school system to try to remove from

the attitude of all those involved in the delivery of public education any kind of bias or direction based upon racial, sexual or economic differences. We are going to continue to do so as diligently as we possibly can.

DEBRIEFING AFTER INTERVIEW

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In the light of some of the concerns expressed by the members yesterday, I have read the draft transcript of the evening sitting on Tuesday, May 1, 1984. I find a few things that are not too clear in my mind, and I would like to go over a few of the points I find a little confusing. On page L-2200-2—

12:10 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. With all due respect, we are just moving to petitions. I do not totally know if I understand what point you are rising on. Is it a point of privilege or a point of questions?

Mr. Kolyn: It is a point of privilege on the matter of the so-called taping, whether or not there was taping. I am referring to the debate—

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry. With all due respect, it is not a point of privilege. If the member is talking about the matter of yesterday—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He is talking about the record of Tuesday night.

The Deputy Speaker: Tuesday night?

Mr. Kolyn: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the member will share his concern and then I will be able to give a ruling.

Mr. McClellan: Right. Once the cabinet gives you the direction, you rule the point of privilege is in order. That is the way it works.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not give him any direction.

Mr. McClellan: Exactly why we rang the bells.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is what the bells were about.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Let us not get into what we had earlier in the day. I remind the member, as he proceeds, that we cannot deal with a matter that occurred in committee. We can only deal with a matter that is a report before the House.

Mr. Kolyn: The issue is in the second or third paragraph, a quote from the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). This is where I am

confused. "There were 97 women and three men there plus officials of the Ontario Federation of Labour. It was a debriefing of the people who were canvassing. They taped some of it. They also took notes from women who came around in groups of three and four. Some of the comments were very interesting."

The fact is that it is very difficult to ascertain as to whether, when he said, "They taped some of it," they taped some of it in the members' offices or somewhere else. I would like to suggest to all members that this, along with other things, should be clarified. I suggest we would be able to send it to the standing committee on procedural affairs for further clarification.

The Deputy Speaker: I remind the member that no point of privilege was found yesterday when the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) rose on her point of privilege. If the member is proposing a resolution, I remind all members that there is only one provision for that. That would be in the case of private members' hour when proper rotation brings an opportunity to put such a resolution.

PETITION

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Cambridge, Oriole, Mississauga East, Scarborough Centre, Durham-York and Elgin, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations"—

[Interruption]

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member take his seat for a moment, please? The security people will clear the west gallery.

Mr. Kolyn: —"and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Kolyn from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING CONTROL ACT

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, first reading of Bill 55, An Act respecting advertising by Government Organizations.

Motion agreed to.

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, first reading of Bill 56, An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the two private members' bills I have introduced would severely curtail government advertising.

The Government Advertising Control Act 1984 would prevent any Ontario government organization from placing advertising on radio, television, newspapers or billboards which would either directly or indirectly promote the political party to which the members of the executive council or cabinet belong. The bill would also prevent the use by government organizations of a logo, slogan, motto or name that is likely to be identified with that of a political party. Photographs or voice recordings—

Mr. McClellan: Like "Preserve it, conserve it."

Mr. Foulds: Yes; the "Preserve it, conserve it" thing.

Photographs or voice recordings of a cabinet minister would be banned in government advertising. The bill is designed to prevent the Ontario Conservative government from using taxpayers' money to further its own political objectives in any year leading towards an election.

The second bill, the Election Finances Reform Amendment Act, prohibits advertising

by government organizations during the course of a provincial election campaign. Exemptions are granted for emergency purposes approved of by the leaders of the opposition parties and for the administration of the election itself.

These two bills are an attempt to prevent the government from using taxpayers' money for propaganda reasons.

12:20 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (continued)

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, had I known it was so exciting on Friday mornings, I would probably have come more often—or Thursday evenings, for that matter. However, I have received complaints from the pages that they have heard far too many bells in the last 24 hours. I agree with them. The business of the House has been somewhat delayed by sounds that are unfamiliar to the tender ears of those who render such able assistance to us in the assembly.

The whole purpose of the exercise last night was to convey to this minister and to many of his colleagues who will follow with their estimates that we on this side of the House are serious about having answers to very legitimate questions about public expenditures which the government so far has found ways to get around and to refuse to justify.

The minister and his colleagues should know that my colleagues and I are determined to continue pressing the government to give us some explanation or some accounting of expenditure of public funds in the province. We shall not be deterred from our goal of achieving that result. We owe it to the people whom we represent to force the government to give us some explanation of these funds. I will return to that matter on another occasion.

Mr. Bradley: This would be a big story in Ottawa.

Mr. Roy: If the federal government treated the opposition or the public of Ontario with the impunity, the cavalier superficiality of this government, it would be front-page news. It would make The Journal every second night and would be in all media right across the country that the government found ways to refuse to answer very legitimate Orders and Notices questions.

We are not asking frivolous questions. We are not asking for the measurements of any member,

or whether the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) uses Grecian Formula, what he had on his plate last night, whether the meal he had two weeks ago was at public expense or things of that nature.

We are asking very important questions about contracts, people who assist the government and ovals that have been commissioned at public expense. These are very legitimate questions. I will return to the matter of questions later in my opening statement. Members will understand that because of events, we are going to be pressed for time and it is going to be very difficult to get into the individual estimates of this ministry.

I do want to raise a couple of matters the minister discussed in his opening statement. One is the visit by Her Majesty the Queen, which all of my colleagues support and of which they are in favour. We agree with the minister's statement and hope that no provincial or federal election will deter her visit to the province. I trust we can get a commitment from the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs that his government will not get involved in or press any provincial election, thereby making it difficult for Her Majesty to visit Ontario when she comes to Canada.

The other matter I want to raise is the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in September 1984. The point I want to make with the minister, and I hope he will possibly intercede in the matter, involves a discussion I had the other day with the Archbishop of Ottawa, His Excellency Monsignor Plourde. I was asking him how the Pope's visit was going. The archbishop is never very afraid to express annoyance about certain facts that are going on around him. He advised me they were encountering problems in Ottawa because, apparently, none of the municipal, regional or federal politicians in the area who have some control over this is prepared to declare a holiday for the day His Holiness will visit Ottawa.

The reason a holiday is essential is that if there is going to be an outdoor mass in Nepean, which is in the western section of Ottawa, it will be impossible to transport people to and from the site. They are expecting 250,000 to 300,000 people, and it will be impossible to accommodate such numbers unless a holiday is declared by all levels of government, thereby releasing, for instance, OC Transpo to care exclusively for the transportation of people who want to get to and from the site of the mass by His Holiness.

The minister will understand that to move this number of people in an area like Ottawa-

Carleton, where the only major artery is the Queensway, is actually going to be impossible unless the people working in the area of Ottawa-Carleton are not using the transportation system. It is going to have to be used exclusively for the transportation of people going to the site of the mass.

Apparently, there is a reluctance on the part of the leaders of municipalities, whether it be Ottawa, Nepean, Gloucester or others, and on the part of the federal government as well—at least, they have not done it so far—to declare a holiday. I would have thought it would be good politics with His Holiness coming to the area. I would have thought, as one who is maybe not as refined as others in the art of politics, that it would be very good politics to declare a holiday.

But as Monseigneur Plourde explained to me, unless a holiday is declared, the outdoor mass is really going to be out of the question because there will be chaos in trying to move people to and from the site of the mass.

I would like an undertaking from the minister. In his statement on page 17, he says: "We will be honoured by the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II during the month of September. In this regard, two of our most treasured historic sites, the Martyrs' Shrine and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland, are included on his itinerary." Other areas are included as well.

I think the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs should seize the initiative with all the local municipalities, because a number of them are involved. He should take advantage of the opportunity and the province should declare a holiday for Ottawa-Carleton, at least on the Ontario side, for the day the mass is going to be celebrated by His Holiness John Paul II.

It is not only a matter of grandstanding and taking advantage of the visit of His Holiness to get some political mileage; it is an essential ingredient of the visit, according to the archbishop of Ottawa. Unless that is done, and done quickly so they can plan accordingly, the archbishop states that the outdoor mass will not be held and the mass will then probably have to be held in the cathedral, which will accommodate only 2,000 to 3,000 people. I think that would be unfortunate.

12:30 p.m.

While this province and the area of Ottawa-Carleton are being honoured by an event that has never taken place before in the history of the country, a visit by the Pope, as many people as possible should be encouraged to see him, to

participate in that event. An outdoor mass is the major function that can accommodate that wish.

I was speaking with the archbishop and he said they had received tremendous co-operation so far from the provincial government. As an astute opposition member, I was asking the archbishop whether the province was co-operating and whether we could do something at this level. He indicated they had received great co-operation.

Perhaps steps should be taken as early as possible to see to this if an individual municipality is not prepared to take the initiative or to accept its responsibility. Apparently, the business community is putting pressure on the politicians not to force a holiday. They feel that if the stores are open, they might benefit from the massive influx of people and it might be a tremendous day for business.

When we look at the priorities of the whole process, surely that is not one of the main purposes of the visit. One of the main purposes is to allow His Holiness to have communication and dialogue and to be seen by as many people as possible. I am sure the business community could benefit either before or after the visit. The politicians in the Ottawa-Carleton area should not be browbeaten by that community and should not be afraid to take their responsibility.

I think the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs has something to do with this. Perhaps he should move in if they are not prepared to accept the responsibility to declare a holiday on the Ontario side. Perhaps he could get in touch with his colleague on the Quebec side, because His Holiness will be visiting the Gatineau-Hull area at the same time.

Given that situation, maybe the minister and his colleague from Quebec could declare a holiday on that day on both sides of the river, thereby relieving each individual municipality of having to go through the process and perhaps feel somewhat intimidated by the business community.

I think there is an opportunity there. Considering the importance of this event, the minister should take the initiative to move in and see whether he can do something about that process. As I said, the archbishop was annoyed and concerned. It would be very unfortunate.

I think the Pope will be celebrating the mass on September 20. I would like an undertaking from the minister that he will look into this important matter.

In his opening statement the minister talked at length about the initiative of his government in a variety of areas. He talked about international

trade and the importance of setting up offices with representatives of the Ontario government in various areas.

As I pointed out, my colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and I, accepting our responsibility as responsible opposition members, took it upon ourselves to visit one of the Ontario representatives, the agent general in New York City. We were very well received. We had occasion to have a lengthy discussion with the agent, Mr. Jake Dunlap. Both my colleague and I were favourably impressed by the setup he had in that city.

In the person of Mr. Dunlap, we have an excellent public relations person. If anyone is going to spread the Ontario message of goodwill, charm, humour, etc., I cannot think of anyone who can do it more effectively than Jake Dunlap. In fact, considering the role he has to play in attending various functions, I cannot think of anyone who would be better known in New York. As he walks from his residence on Park Avenue down to his offices on Third Avenue, I can just see Jake calling half the citizens up and down that street by their first names. That is the way he operates.

We were favourably impressed by the setup there. I am convinced it will help Ontario's image and it will help Ontario in a variety of areas to further trade, goodwill, etc. We were impressed, and I thought I should put that on the record.

The minister talked about international trade. My colleague the member for Renfrew North pointed out one matter that seemed to be somewhat inconsistent, that is, the emphasis Ontario was putting on trade with China. I agree with my colleague, when the Premier of China visited Toronto, it was unfortunate that the first minister of this province was not present to welcome him, and in the process to give passive and very visible evidence of his commitment to trade, communications, etc., with that very important area of the world.

We have limited time, and I want to be sure my colleagues have an opportunity to say something in these estimates, but the minister talked about French-language services and a couple of things stuck in my mind about what he had to say. I go back to a speech he gave to the Institute of Public Administration of Canada in Ottawa. He made a famous statement in that speech, which was not reported as widely as I thought it should have been. He said something like, "In Ontario we have had our own quiet but effective revolution," in talking about French-language services.

I thought it was interesting that the word "revolution" should emanate from the lips of that minister. If anyone does not believe in quick changes or in revolution, it is certainly him. If anyone ever proceeded cautiously in that field—and I emphasize the word "cautiously"—it has been this minister. I thought it interesting that he should be talking about a quiet revolution. If it had been the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), that is something else, but the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs' talking about revolution, no.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am a very quiet revolution.

Mr. Roy: Yes. That is just what I was saying. I should not call it a quiet revolution, but if the Minister of Education talked about revolution, I would believe it. From the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, it is another thing.

12:40 p.m.

Anyway, it is going to be interesting at some time. When some of my colleagues are fighting an election and some of the minister's colleagues on that side are trying to stir the bushes a little bit by saying how the opposition is going too far in its demand for French-language services, someone should pull out that speech and talk about how the minister talked about a quiet revolution involving French-language services in Ontario.

Another thing struck me in the minister's statement. In 1978, when I proposed that French-language services be guaranteed by way of legislation, the minister will recall that he personally supported this particular initiative—such initiative had been accepted by the House—and then the Premier (Mr. Davis) got up and vetoed the whole process. I will always remember the Premier's statement at that time. He said, "As long as I am the first minister of this province, this approach will not form part of government policy."

Here we are five or six years later. That was 1978. What are we talking about? Five or six years later, at a time when events have gone by, when people are talking about constitutional guarantees, the minister and the first minister are talking about legislative guarantees.

They are coming along. It is a gradual process. They are prepared to say publicly now what the Premier was imposing a veto on five or six years ago, and I find that process very interesting indeed. They are moving; they are understanding; there is some evolution going on in the province, and I thought I should emphasize it.

But the minister will understand, and I have said it a hundred times, that francophones in this

province feel they deserve no less than many other minority groups in this province. The women of this country have constitutional guarantees; the native people have constitutional guarantees; a variety of categories in this province or in this country have constitutional guarantees; anglophones in Quebec have constitutional guarantees; francophones in Manitoba and in New Brunswick have constitutional guarantees; francophones in Ontario desire no less than those groups.

The guarantees the government has given in education should go further. I do not understand why the government would not be prepared to move along the lines of the resolution I put forward and give constitutional guarantees in areas where it is giving the services now, for instance, in the courts. The minister talked the other day about giving legislative guarantees in social services or in government services.

I encourage the minister to review the very sensible approach I have proposed in a resolution I have again put in Orders and Notices. I think it is reasonable and sensible. It has the support of my colleagues in the Liberal Party and, I am sure, that of my colleagues in the third party.

Finally, I would like to return to the subject I discussed with the minister last night. The minister will recall that my colleagues and I personally have forwarded correspondence to the minister asking a number of questions, which he refused to answer in Orders and Notices. I have read his statement and I do not intend to go into it again. His statement back on April 18 said he was prepared to answer questions during estimates. So I asked in that letter, considering the number of questions and the all-encompassing aspect of many of these questions, that they be answered in his opening statement.

In his opening statement last night he obviously did not answer the questions and he gave no indication in his statement that he was even interested in answering any of the questions. So my colleagues and I felt at the time we had no choice but to get a message to the minister that we are serious about this process.

The minister in our discussions out in the hall—he was very exercised and annoyed—talked about blackmail. I thought it interesting that a Tory minister from Ontario should be talking about blackmail when the bells are ringing, when his colleagues in Manitoba let the bells ring for weeks and months at a time. I thought that was an interesting process. His colleagues in Ottawa had the bells ringing at one time for 15 days.

Mr. Nixon: And the NDP in Saskatchewan. We are the only pure ones really.

Mr. Roy: That is right. We did not disrupt the business. When the minister talks about blackmail, I suppose he knows what he is talking about. In any event, he refused outside, and I said to him, "Tell me you have the answers and are prepared to table them and we will come right back in." The minister was not prepared to do that.

He apparently did give a statement to the press in which he said, "I have the answers and I am prepared to give the answers." One of the press statements I read—and here is the game this government is playing—in this morning's Toronto Sun has a great headline. It says, "Ding-dong Battle in the Legislature." At least for once in the estimates someone is listening to what is happening, something that does not happen too often.

The article said, "The provincial Liberals let the bells ring for almost two hours to try and force the government to answer more than 200 questions on spending." A legitimate purpose I felt. I am quoted as saying, "We're waiting breathlessly for the answers," and we were. It says here: "But Wells said outside the Legislature he has 'all the answers to the questions.'" He does not tell us that, in his statement or outside, but he tells the press he has all the answers. Then he says, "The trick is to know which questions to ask." It is getting to be a little game, just like the combination on a lock. If we want the answers, we have to play with the lock. There is a trick to this.

I tell the minister we are past the stage of playing tricks. The questions are straightforward, and he and his colleagues have been avoiding them for a year or two. Last year, when I asked the same questions of the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague), I will quote from what he had to say in May 1983, "The information and questions concern expenditures undertaken by various ministries and secretariats and may be sought through the regular estimates process." That is what we have been getting, the regular estimates process.

I ask the minister again, is he prepared to answer the questions I repeated last night in my statement? Can the minister give us an undertaking that before the end of these estimates he will answer questions about amounts spent by the ministry on technical consulting services, on communication services, on legal services for the years 1978-79 to 1982-83 inclusive? We talked about the advertising budget of the ministry for

the agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year 1982-83—another sensible question.

Is he prepared to undertake to respond to these questions? The minister knows the time left. I am going to leave my colleague the opportunity to make his statement when we proceed on Monday. We are going to have only half an hour or 45 minutes left.

Mr. Barlow: Are you going to be here on Monday?

Mr. Conway: He will not be in Pakistan or the Caribbean or the Persian Gulf or Hong Kong or Cuba or the Federal Republic of Germany at public expense while the House is in session.

12:50 p.m.

Mr. Roy: That is right.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Who has done that?

Mr. Roy: The government has tried for two or three elections to make an issue of this. It has nothing else, so it keeps saying this. I can remember Omer saying during the last election, "I am going to be a full-time member in this place." It has no credibility.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Albert, we tease you without the kind of vitriol that Sean brings into it, that's all.

Mr. Roy: No, no.

Mr. Conway: Oh, no. That is not the way it is around Ottawa, my dear minister.

Mr. Roy: The thing that gets the government annoyed about some of the comments of the member for Renfrew North is he is hitting home base. That is annoying. When many of the government members are missing, they have gone somewhere at public expense, but the point is the voters of Ottawa East know full well that when something is important, their member is there, he is participating and he is active.

The citizens of Ottawa East know full well the responsibility of a member is not always limited to sitting in the back row yawning, falling asleep, trying to look interested, reading the paper, etc.

I say to my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), do not fear, we will give him sufficient time for his statement on Monday.

Mr. Shymko: Why does everybody on your side yawn when you speak?

Mr. Roy: At least I keep the Tory backbenchers awake, do I not? I seem to anyway.

I say to the minister again, will he give me an undertaking that he will answer questions about his advertising budget? Will he table the public opinion polls commissioned by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Zilch.

Mr. Roy: Zilch, none. He had none in 1981-82, or in 1982-83, and he had none for the first part of 1984. There were no public opinion polls. It is on the record that the minister says there were no polls commissioned.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There is half a poll for 1984.

Mr. Roy: Okay. Would he table the half poll? It should be interesting to find out what half a poll is about. Is his half poll made out so we get half answers or half percentages? The way the government has been using polls it has difficulty reacting to a full poll. I would hate to think what it would do with half a poll.

Mr. Conway: The Conservative Premier of Newfoundland says the Davis crowd is "obsessed with and by poll-taking."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is only because you guys talk about it all the time. We do not do it half as much as you talk about it.

Mr. Roy: Does the minister have a parliamentary assistant?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Roy: Does he have access to government-owned, chauffeur-driven limousines?

Mr. Nixon: Who is it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Doug Kennedy.

Mr. Roy: Would the minister tell us the basis and conditions under which the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) has access to this limousine?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Not a limousine, a car.

Mr. Roy: Would the minister advise us how many people are employed by his ministry, either on contract or otherwise, who are not classified as civil servants? Would he indicate the total costs incurred for their services during 1981-82 and 1982-83? Those are simple enough questions. Is he going to be able to respond or can he undertake to give us an answer to those questions?

Will the minister advise us of the number of trips taken outside of Canada by himself, by the deputy minister, by the assistant deputy minister—all, of course, at public expense—during the year?

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are no assistant deputy ministers in our ministry.

Mr. Roy: The minister has no assistant deputy minister; then by his parliamentary assistant, now that we know he has one.

Mr. Robinson: You did not know who it was.

Mr. Roy: I guess we would not know who it was. Who would know that the member for Mississauga South was the parliamentary assistant to the minister? It is laughable.

Mr. Robinson: That shows how much you know.

Mr. Roy: Is that member anybody's parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Conway: The Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) I believe.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: To answer the question, the person who would know whether the member for Mississauga South is the parliamentary assistant would be the person who read the briefing material supplied by the minister.

Mr. Roy: It is such an important function. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) would know all these minute details. He is good at those details. However, when it comes to something more important, such as the time of day, he has a problem.

If I may continue, would the minister outline the members of his staff or nonministry personnel who accompanied him or the deputy minister on any of these trips? Would he indicate the purpose and cost of each trip headed by himself or the deputy minister? How many direct jobs have been created in Ontario to date as a result of these trips?

I expect the minister, who is an honourable man and who told the press he had the answers to these questions, to be in a position to answer the questions before the end of his estimates. The minister knows full well that with the limited time available we will not have the time to pursue these matters when the individual items come up.

I expect the minister, as an honourable man, will comply with the message he gave to the press, and that he will respond to these questions. Having made those comments, I will relinquish the floor to my colleague the member for Oshawa.

The Deputy Chairman: Rather than proceed with further presentations at this point, since we are close to one o'clock it would be an appropriate moment to rise.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported progress.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I should indicate it has been agreed we will continue these estimates on Monday afternoon after question period.

As previously announced, the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services will then begin in whatever time is available. Those estimates were to be completed Thursday evening so there will still be time for them to complete on

Thursday evening. After that, we will have the debate on the reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES

1. Ms. Copps: Would the Minister of Health advise the house how many management studies have been commissioned by the ministry and/or approved by the ministry for all Ontario public hospitals and public health institutions since March 1981? What are the dates of approval, the cost of the studies and the ensuing implementation of said studies all over Ontario? [Tabled March 21, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of management studies paid by the ministry since March 1981 is 97. All amounts were paid by the ministry during 1981-82 and totalled \$4.1 million. The information on implementation costs is not available. All of the above studies were cost-effectiveness studies which hospitals undertook to measure the efficiency of their operations.

EXTRA BILLING

275. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House what the minimum level of income should be below which no extra billing should occur? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

276. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table all factual information which would lead him to believe that extra billing is limited to those who can afford it? [Tabled April 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: A series of initiatives is in place in order to provide access to medical services at Ontario health insurance plan rates. These services are available to all residents of Ontario who, for financial or other reasons, wish to avail themselves of medical services at OHIP rates.

On March 19, 1983, an amendment to the regulations under the Health Disciplines Act was introduced. This amendment makes it mandatory for doctors to inform their patients in advance if they intend to bill above the amount payable by OHIP and also the amount in excess of the OHIP schedule of benefits fee.

A province-wide toll-free number (1-800-268-7215) is maintained whereby patients may phone the Ontario Medical Association in order to get the names and addresses of opted-in physicians in their local areas.

The Ministry of Health publishes a handbook semi-annually listing the name, address, tele-

phone number and specialty of each opted-in physician throughout the province. This publication, entitled List of Physicians Participating in OHIP, is available at all public libraries in Ontario and it may be purchased for a nominal fee from the Ontario Government bookstore. Any physician registered with OHIP may obtain a copy of this publication directly from OHIP upon request.

A system has been established whereby complaints about extra billing received by OHIP are referred to the Ontario Medical Association for mediation.

The Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association and the Ministry of Health reached agreement in 1979 whereby hospitals would endeavour to secure the services of their physicians at opted-in rates for patients who requested the hospital to do so.

The vast majority of opted-out specialists in Ontario belong to opted-in hospital groups. This means that opted-out surgeons and other specialists can render their services at OHIP rates if requested to do so by the patient.

It is our understanding that 37 cases have been directed for mediation to the Ontario Medical Association since the inception of this initiative in April 1980. Of these, 31 cases have been resolved and of the remainder, two are pending.

EDUCATION STATISTICS

286. Mr. Grande: Will the Minister of Education table for each school board in Ontario for 1982, 1983, 1984, using interim and estimate figures where necessary: (1) the average daily enrolment; (2) per pupil grant ceiling; (3) per pupil expenditures; (4) total expenditure; (5) total local taxation; (6) total provincial assistance; (7) rate of grant on recognized ordinary expenditures; (8) provincial contribution as a percentage of the total local school board expenditures; (9) rate of grant for French-language instruction; (10) decline or increase in number of students from previous years; (11) decline or increase in number of full-time equivalent teachers from previous year; (12) number of self-contained special education classes; (13) number of full-time equivalent teachers of special education classes; (14) number of heritage languages classes; (15) number of students studying heritage languages; (16) number of pupils whose

first language is neither English nor French; (17) number of self-contained classes for pupils whose first language is neither English nor French; and (18) number of full-time equivalent teachers of classes for pupils whose first language is neither English nor French? Will the minister also provide totals for each of the above 18 points on a province-wide basis? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

287. Mr. Grande: Would the minister responsible table the following information concerning Ontario—An Informal History of the Land and its People: (1) the commission, plus any other financial arrangements or amenities Robert Choquette has earned, or will earn, from the government of Ontario for this booklet; (2) how many copies of the booklet were printed; was the printing tendered or done in-house and, if tendered, which companies submitted bids and which company was successful and at what price; (3) what is the cost per booklet; (4) what was the cost of distribution per copy; and (5) who received it? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

See sessional paper 76.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

289. Mr. Allen: Will the Minister of Citizenship and Culture table full details of the cost of the Special Committee for the Arts, including remuneration of members, staff costs, travel and public hearing costs, other expenses and the cost of preparing, printing and distributing the report of the committee?

Will the minister also provide details of the cost of the survey entitled *The Perceptions, Attitudes and Behaviour of Ontario Residents toward the Arts in the Province: 1983*, prepared by Access Survey Research in collaboration with Louis Harris and Associates, together with her best estimate of the extent to which this survey duplicated the survey previously conducted by or for the Treasury whose results were denied to the Special Committee for the Arts? Has the ministry been given access to the Treasury survey results? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

Hon. Ms. Fish: Financial data related to the work of the Special Committee for the Arts was maintained in accordance with government accounting procedures. The major cost details available are as follows:

Remuneration of committee members, \$132,000; staff costs, \$98,800; travel costs, \$19,700; other costs (photocopying, translation, stationery, professional services, office machine rental, consultants, etc.), \$143,000; printing and

distribution of report (English and French versions, plus survey), \$65,070; total, \$459,470.

Separate cost figures were not maintained for the public hearings or for research and preparation of the report.

Cost of the survey prepared for the special committee by Access Survey Research Corp. was \$34,000 (included in the total of \$459,470).

The survey was designed to provide a broad range of data on the attitudes and behaviour of residents of the province towards the arts. The ministry has not seen the survey undertaken by the Treasury and is therefore unable to make any comparisons with that undertaken by the Special Committee for the Arts. It is believed that there is no significant duplication between the two surveys.

USE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

290. Mr. Di Santo: Will the Minister of Government Services inform the House whether the government has made any decision on the use of the land at the northwest corner of Falstaff Avenue and Keele Street, previously used by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications? Would the minister also inform the House if the city of North York has been approached regarding the disposition of the site?

If the government has not come to a final decision yet, can the ministry reassure the residents that no high-rise is considered for the site and that the use of the same will not alter the character of the area, which is now a single-dwelling neighbourhood? [Tabled April 11, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The property along the north side of Falstaff Avenue, west of Keele Street, is owned by the Ministry of Government Services and is allocated to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of the Solicitor General (Ontario Provincial Police). The property has not been declared surplus by the occupant ministries and therefore is not surplus to the needs of the government.

A 10-year lease agreement has been made between the Ministry of Government Services and Metropolitan Toronto for use of the inspection facilities in the former driver examination building. These facilities will be used by Metro Toronto to inspect vehicles to be licensed as taxicabs. The remainder of the building continues to be used by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The Ontario Provincial Police continue to occupy the easterly building on the property. In addition, there are two vacant sites, one immedi-

ately east of the former driver examination facility and the other immediately east of the OPP building.

Discussions have occurred in the past with officials from the city of North York concerning the potential future use of this property for residential purposes. These discussions involved the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing but did not result in any final conclusion. It would be the intention of the Ministry of Government Services to work closely with officials of the city of North York in any further planning studies which involve the future use of this property.

It is premature at this time to identify potential future uses of the property since it continues to be required for provincial government purposes.

PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES

317. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health inform the House whether the ministry plans to close any psychiatric facilities this year? If so, which ones and how will the services they now offer be continued? [Tabled April 18, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are no plans to close any psychiatric facilities.

BICENTENNIAL SPENDING

311. Mr. Breagh: Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the following information regarding the bicentennial grants: (1) to whom the grants were awarded, and (2) the amount awarded in each case? [Tabled April 17, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Dean: 1. Grants were available to cities, towns, villages, townships, Indian bands and local service boards.

2. \$1,873,165 shared by 772 municipalities; \$15,500 shared by 31 local service boards; and \$31,297 shared by 39 Indian bands.

The community celebration grants were based on 50 cents per capita, with no municipality receiving less than \$500 and more than \$10,000. Funds are to be used to help communities with bicentennial projects and events such as festivals, parades, plaques and the writing of local histories.

BICENTENNIAL POSTERS

312. Mr. Breagh: Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the following information regarding the bicentennial posters: (1) the name of the printer; (2)

the number printed; (3) the cost of printing; and (4) the cost of distribution? [Tabled April 17, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Dean: 1. York Litho Ltd.

2. 90,000 English and 10,000 French.

3. \$130,431.

4. The exact cost of distribution is difficult to determine without extensive use of staff resources. The posters were distributed in bulk to members (100 each) and to a number of ministries (44,500 total) for ongoing distribution. Also, requests for small orders of posters to individuals and groups have been provided using the regular mail services at prevailing rates. Sixteen thousand posters were made available through the offices of the regional co-ordinators for bicentennial throughout the province and distributed in a similar manner.

BICENTENNIAL BUTTONS

313. Mr. Breagh: Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the following information regarding the bicentennial buttons: (1) the name of the manufacturing firm; (2) the number produced; (3) the cost of production; and (4) the cost of distribution? [Tabled April 17, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Dean: 1. HAS Novelties, Toronto.

2 and 4. This response would require a considerable amount of staff time to prepare. The initial order of 200,000 buttons was largely distributed to MPPs (1,000 each) for use in each riding. Additional buttons were supplied to area co-ordinators, members of the advisory commission, protocol office and the office of the parliamentary assistant to the Premier. The balance was distributed to individual requests. Similarly, the second order of 125,000 buttons was distributed to meet ongoing requests, including those of MPPs, area co-ordinators and individuals.

3. \$27,891.

BICENTENNIAL FLAGS

314. Mr. Breagh: Will the Provincial Secretary for Social Development table the following information regarding bicentennial flags: (1) the name of the manufacturing firm; (2) the number produced; (3) the cost of production; and (4) the cost of distribution? [Tabled April 17, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Dean: 1. Canadiana Textile Screen Prints Ltd.

2. Two thousand and sixteen three-by-six-foot flags, 2,800 five-by-10-inch table flags and 100 four-and-one-half-by-nine-foot flags.

3. Standing order costs for flags are at the rates of \$18.50 for the three-by-six-foot flags, \$1.25 for the table flags and \$31 for the four-and-one-half-by-nine-foot flags.

4. The majority of flags have been distributed to the municipalities in Ontario, local service boards, Indian bands, area co-ordinators and for special events. Two hundred flags were also provided to the office of the parliamentary assistant to the Premier for distribution. Table flags have been distributed to MPPs, area

co-ordinators and special nonprofit groups for individual use. It is difficult to determine the actual cost of distribution without extensive use of staff time and resources.

INTERIM ANSWERS

277. Mr. Stokes: Hon. Miss Stephenson—We require additional time to prepare our response to the above question. The answer will be ready for tabling on or about May 15, 1984.

308 and 309. Mr. Cooke: Hon. Mr. Norton—The information requested relating to the above order paper questions will require some time to complete. The information will be available on or about May 11, 1984.

APPENDIX B
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
 (125 members)

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)

Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Energy
(Lincoln PC)

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government
Services (Durham West PC)

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and
Recreation (Ottawa West PC)

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs
(Kenora PC)

Birch, M. (Scarborough East PC)

Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environ-
ment (Sarnia PC)

Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)

Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of the Commit-
tees of the Whole House (York Centre PC)

Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)

Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)

Dean, Hon. G. H., Provincial Secretary for
Social Development (Wentworth PC)

Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and
Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)

Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio
(Middlesex PC)

Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L)

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and
Commercial Relations (York East PC)

Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and
Culture (St. George PC)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)

Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue
(Mississauga East PC)

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer of Ontario
and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St.
Patrick PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)

Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)

Henderson, L. C. (Lambton PC)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Hodgson, W. (York North PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

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 Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

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*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
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No. 37

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, May 7, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 7, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, in a moment I will be tabling the report of the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario.

Before I do that and before I present the statement, I would like to apologize most sincerely to the members of the opposition for the fact that cartons of these reports were sent up here by delivery courier earlier today for the use of the media at two o'clock. Unfortunately, they were all delivered to the press gallery on the third floor, so the media have been aware of this report since 11 o'clock this morning.

I did take it upon myself, though, to deliver copies personally to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) in his office shortly after one o'clock and also to the office of the leader of the third party. I am sure they have read the report intently since then.

As honourable members know, apprehension about the potential adverse health effects of asbestos has been a worldwide phenomenon for a number of years. Ontario is no exception. Of particular concern in the late 1970s was the effect of asbestos on workers, occupants of public buildings and schools.

Accordingly, in April 1980, my predecessor the member for York East (Mr. Elgie) announced the establishment of a royal commission to examine and report on the situation. I am pleased to advise the House that I have now received the commission's report, entitled Report of the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table it today.

At the very outset, I am sure all will recognize the debt of gratitude we owe to the excellent work of the commissioners: Dr. J. Stefan Dupré of the University of Toronto, who chaired the commission; Dr. J. Fraser Mustard of McMaster University, and Dr. Robert J. Uffen of Queen's University. They and their staff have produced a report that will rank among the most important

contributions to the world literature on this vital topic.

The report contains 117 recommendations and runs to 920 pages in three volumes. Despite the length and complexity of the subject matter, it is written in a style which makes it accessible to nontechnical laymen, a point of particular significance in the field of health and safety where public awareness is the threshold requirement for progress. In short, it is, in the scope of its analysis and the breadth of its recommendations, a landmark document.

I would like to touch briefly on the highlights. The report deals with asbestos in relation to virtually the entire population: workers, occupants of public buildings, schools and other institutions, and private dwellings. Where risks are found to exist, it recommends particular remedial strategies, and it deals in a comprehensive way with compensation, prevention and education. Like the Ham commission in 1976, its significance goes well beyond the strict limit of its terms of reference. Although asbestos is the focus, the report encompasses the entire field of health hazard identification, risk analysis, compensation and prevention.

Based upon its review of medical and scientific literature and evidence, the commission finds that the health hazard posed by asbestos depends on four factors: first, the quantity of asbestos fibres breathed in by an individual; second, the dimensions of the asbestos fibres, the most hazardous being those that are long and narrow; third, fibre type, and fourth, the type of industrial process in which any given type of asbestos is used, since variations in processes influence the dimensions of the fibres released into the air.

The commission concludes that current adverse health effects in workers resulted primarily from exposure to large quantities of asbestos over the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. As the commission notes, it is now apparent that these exposures have resulted in a heavy toll of disease and loss of life.

Regrettably, the same situation pertains all over the world. As in other jurisdictions, Ontario moved to control exposures as knowledge of the risks emerged. Ontario's response was in keep-

ing with that of all other jurisdictions faced with a similar problem.

The commission finds the exposure of members of the public to asbestos fibres is thousands of times less than the exposure to which asbestos workers have been subject. No evidence is found of significant health risks to the general public from exposure to asbestos in the outdoor air or in buildings unless the person is breathing in the immediate vicinity of loose or flaking asbestos. In addition, the commission finds no evidence indicating that swallowing or ingesting asbestos creates a health risk. It concludes that concern about asbestos in drinking water, beverages, food and drugs is not justified. The health risk posed by asbestos, therefore, is a work-place health risk rather than a general public health risk.

Against the backdrop of these principal findings, the commission makes 117 recommendations. I would like to take a moment to deal with the most significant among them.

The commission recommends that the use of the two most hazardous asbestos types—crocidolite and amosite—should be prohibited unless and until it can be exhibited that they can be used safely. It is important to emphasize the commission's finding that since 1980 neither of these two types of asbestos has been used in manufacturing or has been mined in Ontario.

With regard to the third type, chrysotile, which is the only type used or mined in Ontario, the commission endorses the exposure limits contained in the current regulation, which requires the reduction of exposure to the lowest practical level, not to exceed one fibre per cubic centimetre of air. There is a proviso to this conclusion, namely, that chrysotile be banned in the spinning and weaving of textiles unless and until safe methods are developed. However, as the commission notes, there are no substantial textile manufacturing operations in the province where chrysotile is used.

The commission also recommends that the existing asbestos regulation be strengthened in a number of technical areas, including methods of measurement and medical surveillance. On the other hand, it concludes that a number of other operations involving brake repair and maintenance be exempted from certain provisions of the asbestos regulation.

2:10 p.m.

As indicated, the commission finds that the exposure of building occupants to asbestos fibres during normal building use is insignificant and does not pose a public health problem. The

commission endorses the approach taken by this government with respect to its own buildings, namely, the encapsulation, enclosure or removal of the asbestos-containing material anywhere that it is loose and is likely to be disturbed or dislodged.

To protect workers involved in maintenance, renovation, construction and demolition, the commission endorses the control-by-procedure approach embodied in the ministry's draft regulation presented by ministry staff at a public meeting last year. In addition, the commission recommends mandatory inspection and testing by building owners to ascertain the existence of asbestos prior to the commencement of renovation or construction work. The commission would further require the owner to remove such materials prior to demolition or renovation.

These requirements would apply to any building in which insulation was placed or replaced before 1974. In addition, the commission recommends that building owners be required to institute asbestos management and control programs once loose asbestos-containing material is found on their premises.

As to consumer products, the commission notes these vary greatly in terms of their potential hazard, depending upon the manner in which the asbestos in them is contained and the way the product is used or handled. Accordingly, the commission recommends that the federal and provincial governments collaborate to categorize consumer products and, where appropriate, to apply controls, including prohibition in some cases and labelling and instruction in others. In products where asbestos is sealed off or encapsulated, the commission recommends no regulation.

The major portion of the commission's third volume is devoted to workers' compensation. The commission states that "in the sphere of asbestos disease" the Workers' Compensation Board is "one of the most progressive compensation agencies in the world." I am sure these will be welcome words of encouragement for the board as it continues to perform its difficult and sensitive role. However, the commission is also critical of certain aspects of the board's practices and procedures and makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving them.

These include restructuring the corporate board, the creation of an independent appeals tribunal, the establishment of asbestosis and mesothelioma as automatically compensable diseases, the creation of an advisory council on industrial diseases to guide the board in the

formulation of eligibility rules, the recognition of psychological impairment in determining the level of compensation, and the creation of a limited right of civil action by the board against employers who are believed to have knowingly withheld health information from workers.

To improve existing capabilities for prompt identification and regulation of hazards, the commission recommends governments in Canada should, in concert, establish an agency whose mandate is to identify hazards and assess risks on an ongoing basis. It urges the government of Ontario, through its federal-provincial mechanisms, to take the lead in the creation of such an agency, which would serve a national purpose.

As I have said, the recommendations are wide-ranging and comprehensive and are based upon a careful and lengthy analysis of all available scientific and technical material. My observations today are necessarily preliminary in nature. Members will understand a reasonable period of time will be required to digest and evaluate properly the many and varied findings and recommendations contained in the report, some of which affect other ministries.

I can give an unqualified assurance that this evaluation will be given the highest priority. Our very preliminary analysis indicates some of the concerns giving rise to certain recommendations have already been addressed. Other suggestions with regard to workers' compensation will, I hope, be reflected in proposed statutory amendments to be brought before the Legislature in the near future. Those that have to do with possible amendments to the existing asbestos regulation are of a highly technical nature and will require careful study by the scientific staff in the ministry.

In this connection, I think it is significant that the commission found our regulation to be "one of the most stringent of any jurisdiction in the world." This positive recognition is encouraging as we move ahead with our designated substance program. The cornerstone of that program is the prototype regulation developed by the ministry in 1980 for lead, the design features of which are mirrored in the asbestos regulation.

Since its enactment, the uniqueness of Ontario's prototype of the regulation has been acknowledged internationally, and it is now reassuring to have the commission's endorsement as well. To the extent the commission's recommendations for technical improvements to the regulations are desirable and feasible, they will be acted upon.

More generally, I might note the report is strongly supportive of the concept of the internal joint responsibility system, which is at the heart of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and which plays such a critical role in the successful working of the designated substance program. My ministry will be carefully assessing the commission's several recommendations for improvements in this area.

I want to emphasize it is virtually impossible in a statement of this sort to do justice to a report of this magnitude, complexity and importance. Members will understand that a definitive response will only be possible following the completion of an exhaustive staff analysis, which has already commenced.

We in the House and the citizens of Ontario are indebted to the commission and its staff for their conscientious efforts in one of the most crucial and sensitive areas of public administration.

Finally, I would advise that Dr. Dupré and Dr. Mustard will be available in the media studio at four o'clock this afternoon for any member of this Legislature who has questions to ask them and for the members of the media.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the copies of my statement have been delivered to the opposition parties yet. They are on their way and that may be them now. With the concurrence of the opposition parties, I will proceed.

Over the last few days my ministry has been subjected to severe criticism in respect of the handling of our intervention in the S area landfill proceedings in Buffalo.

Mr. Nixon: Properly severe.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The honourable member should listen to the rest of the statement to see whether it is properly severe criticism.

Much of this criticism has been centred on the position taken by Mr. Philip Sunderland, our lawyer, and his manner of presenting our case. Mr. Sunderland is a partner in one of the most highly respected law firms specializing in the environmental field in the United States.

Acting on many occasions for such groups as the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation, the firm has an impressive record. Mr. Sunderland successfully argued the precedent-setting case in which Ontario was granted full part-status in the S site litigation. There is no question of the competence of this firm. The position taken by Mr. Sunderland at the hearing

has been consistent with my stated position throughout.

On April 10, 1984, I told the House: "The basis of the settlement is a plan to contain the wastes in the S area site. We do not accept that containment for several decades, possibly even hundreds of years, provides adequate protection for the Niagara River. We shall, therefore, request physical removal of the S area contaminants."

In his opening statement Mr. Sunderland said that while containment is viable as a short-term measure, elimination was the only acceptable long-term solution and must take place as soon as it is technologically feasible to do so. Let me quote him from pages 33 to 35 of volume 1-A of the transcript of the court case about which we are talking.

"Due to the nature of the chemicals at the S area site and due to the environmental conditions in which they will continue to exist, the NAPL, the non-aqueous phase chemical contaminants can be expected to continue within the landfill system for hundreds and hundreds of years, for periods far beyond which Hooker or its parent can be expected to operate the system."

2:20 p.m.

In short, the agreement provides, in our view, a short-term solution to a long-term problem. It provides what can only be seen as temporary relief from the immediate consequences of the S area endangerment while retaining every bit of that underlying endangerment.

Mr. Sunderland asked that the source be eliminated and called evidence to show this could be done. I assure members that Mr. Sunderland has at all times acted within his instructions, both from myself and from my ministry staff.

Mr. Sunderland called Dr. McKay, a chemical engineer and professor at the University of Toronto, to give evidence that, assuming the containment system worked, the chemicals present would not change from their highly toxic state in many hundreds of years. That evidence justifies our demand for ultimate elimination of the source.

Dr. McKay was criticized in the media because, although he had read the technical reports, he had not read the settlement agreement. The agreement is a lengthy and complex legal document and irrelevant to his conclusions on the longevity of the chemicals to be contained in the site. This criticism is therefore inappropriate and, in my view, grossly unfair.

Dr. Edward Martin, an expert in hazardous waste disposal technologies who acts as a

consultant to industry, was criticized for not having visited the S area site. He was called to prove that the elimination of a site of the size and nature of the S area is feasible today or in the near future. That testimony was based on broad experience with elimination of hazardous wastes of the type disposed of at the S site. He was not being asked to design a site-specific elimination program. He was asked whether that could be done. He did not need to visit the site to say that it certainly could be done.

Last week the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) asked me in the House why the case was closed early when the ministry's expert witness, Dr. Grisak, was not prepared. I cautioned him at that time that it was totally improper for the Leader of the Opposition to be interfering in a process that was barely under way. Now that the transcript is available, I direct his attention to pages 132 to 135 of volume III-B.

Dr. Grisak had considered the migration of insoluble liquids from S site in the bedrock under the river to the Canadian side. His assessment of this possibility was based on the assumption that a very significant portion of the waste disposed of in S site was insoluble. In a surprise move, Hooker called evidence for the first time to show that the percentage of insoluble liquid disposed of at the site was much less than formerly believed by everyone, including the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States.

The information was withheld from us by Hooker and from its own agency in the United States, the EPA, notwithstanding our earlier request to receive that information. That new information had to be reassessed by Dr. Grisak before he could testify and by ministry counsel before deciding whether to present evidence on the issue. The court quite properly adjourned an hour early that day because of that new evidence.

Having reviewed the new information with Dr. Grisak, Mr. Sunderland, our lawyer, concluded that his evidence would not assist the court. Certain reports have suggested that Mr. Sunderland was rebuked by the court for the "silly" way in which he was presenting the case.

When the Leader of the Opposition suggested last Thursday that the ministry "completely botched the case," to use his words, I cautioned him that it was not fair or reasonable to criticize our presentation before the case was really under way.

Once again, I direct the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to pages 100 to 108 of volume III-B for May 3. Mr. Sunderland, ministry counsel, offered Dr. McKay to the court as a

witness. Dr. McKay was to testify with respect to the longevity of the toxic chemicals disposed of in the S site. It is this very longevity that we will see as the justification for our demand that the source be eliminated.

Counsel for Hooker and the EPA wished to prevent this evidence from being heard and raised objections. A discussion involving all counsel and the court ensued. Finally, the court said, "I think it's a silly discussion we're having here...but I'm willing to listen to any questions you want to put to Dr. McKay. So go ahead." The court overruled the objections to this testimony and directed Mr. Sunderland to proceed. In other words, we won the point.

I am disappointed and perplexed that Pollution Probe and Operation Clean Niagara, having been granted the right as friends of the court to call evidence and to cross-examine witnesses, have chosen not to do so. I would have preferred that they join with us in opposing the approval of this particular agreement.

The court has not yet heard argument or reached a decision. We trust the outcome of the case will not be adversely affected by some of the misinformation that is circulating at the present time.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a question to the Minister of Labour in regard to the tabling the report of the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario.

It is no secret that asbestosis is one of the most feared industrial diseases that workers face. The minister mentioned that this commission had been appointed in April 1980, and we have waited patiently for three years for this important report.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting patiently for the question.

Mr. Mancini: In view of the long wait we have had for this report, I would like to ask the minister whether he will without losing time amend the Workers' Compensation Act to include recommendation 12.10 made on page 62 in this report, which states: "Section 122(9) of the Workers' Compensation Act should be amended so as to stipulate an irrebuttable presumption in favour of the claimant."

Will the minister move quickly to have the Workers' Compensation Act amended so we can have this very vital recommendation put into law right now?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, several recommendations were made by the royal commission in respect of the Workers' Compensation Board. In all fairness, we should be given an opportunity to study these and to assess them over an appropriate period of time. I can assure the honourable member it will not be an extensive period of time; in fact, we already have the mechanism in place to do that study and review.

I would also like to point out, as I am sure the member is aware, that several of the recommendations are similar to recommendations that were made by the standing committee on resources development in respect to the Workers' Compensation Act, and we are hopeful of addressing these in amendments we plan to bring before this Legislature within the next number of weeks.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware that part of the reason for the recommendation my colleague has addressed to him refers back to the actions of Bendix Automotive in challenging the rights of two claims earlier in the decade, both for mesothelioma.

Will the minister indicate that he will move on this matter, and if he does not have his own amendments in accordance with the committee's recommendations, that he will move on it this spring rather than wait until the overall amendment?

Will he give us an undertaking that any changes that are made which would help those workers in Ontario, who either have been denied any compensation at all or who will receive very limited compensation for this terrible industrial disease, will be fully retroactive so these workers, and in some cases their widows, can receive the compensation that is their just due?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be inappropriate for me to make any commitments in this Legislature today as to a timetable for addressing the recommendations that were made in this extensive report, which as I mentioned earlier is of a landmark nature. However, I give the members opposite an assurance that I will try to complete the assessment as soon as possible so that I will be in a position to know exactly what course of action we will take.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I note it says on page 12, "I might note the report is strongly supportive of the concept of the internal joint responsibility system..." Is the minister now prepared to put some teeth into the act defining

the role of both parties under the internal responsibility system and giving the workers as much power in that system as is currently enjoyed by management?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I do not totally agree with the honourable member's statement that the workers do not have full representation under the act or equal—

Mr. Martel: Power.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: —or equal power, whatever the case may be. I feel there is adequate provision in the act now to address the member's concerns.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I think the workers of Ontario, and particularly the widows of those who have died from asbestosis, want to hear from the minister today exactly when he will table legislation stemming from the recommendations.

The minister will no doubt remember that I tabled with his predecessor back in December 1981 a list of 41 cases of workers at the Johns-Manville plant, most of whom received absolutely no pension even though they were forced to leave their jobs as a result of asbestosis.

To refresh his memory, I will give a few of those examples today: 19 years and no pension; 15 years and no pension; 30 years working directly with asbestos and no pension; 32 years and no pension.

When will the minister table legislation in this House that deals with specific recommendations to change the Workers' Compensation Act so that retroactively all those workers and the widows of workers who have died from asbestosis in this province will be covered 100 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I respect the seriousness of the question raised by the honourable member, but I believe I answered that two questions ago when one of her colleagues posed the very same question.

DAY CARE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Women's Issues in this province. It concerns his meetings and government policy with respect to day care in the province.

Is the minister aware that his government is creating a system in this province where only the poor or the rich can have adequate day care? Is he aware, for example, that a family with two young children and with a combined income of some \$30,000 can expect to pay under this government's policies up to \$10,000 a year for day care, or a third of their income?

I know the minister is going to a conference on these issues in the not too distant future. What suggestions does he have? What leadership is he going to provide to make sure day care is not just the sanctum of the rich or the poor but can be available to all people in this province at a reasonable price?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, because of the responsibilities that are mine, I attach high importance to the priority of quality child care, which I think indicates the emphasis and the priority. The speech from the throne was clear with respect to the government's commitment to review access to and the quality of child care in the province, and that review is under way at present.

Several of my colleagues and I have just completed meetings with the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, representatives of which were here today to discuss these matters. I felt it was a positive meeting, and we had some helpful suggestions from them as they discussed many issues that relate to this matter.

I can assure the member that this will be very helpful to us as we continue our review and our discussions with the government of Canada, which will be the subject matter of the federal-provincial conference in a couple of weeks to which the member has already made reference.

Mr. Peterson: The reason I asked the minister the question was that he has colleagues in his own cabinet who are going in opposite directions on this issue. I was assuming that he, as the focal point, would provide the leadership in this area.

He is aware of the change of policy of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) that is going to affect the funding arrangements in 1986. It is going to force a number of centres to close. That is certainly the current indication. For example, in Wingham it is now costing up to \$25 a day. The Stratford centre had to close. Sioux Lookout is now charging \$27 a day. It is beyond the reach of most people.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Fort Frances is charging \$24 a day, again beyond the reach of the middle class.

The minister is also aware that his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), in his great report *Women in Rural Life*, expressed great concern about the issue. At the same time, he said, "Economic forecasts suggest the need for child care services will become even more critical in the years ahead as the need for two-income families increases."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: On one hand the Minister of Agriculture and Food is saying we need more, and on the other hand the Minister of Community and Social Services is saying we need less. What is the policy of the government?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I repeat, we had a very successful meeting with the coalition today. We had representation there from several ministries. I think the Leader of the Opposition does not have factual accuracy with respect to the problems related to Wingham and others.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the minister please resume his seat?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I know the Leader of the Opposition is moved because there are people in the galleries to whom he would like to posture. He will learn one lesson in politics, that if we stick to issues and leave out personalities we will get along a lot better.

His predecessors learned that the hard way, he is about to learn it in the next provincial election.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am going to adjourn this House for 10 minutes so both parties can settle their differences privately.

Mr. Speaker suspended the proceedings of the House at 2:37 p.m.

2:48 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Before we were interrupted I had recognized the member for Beaches-Woodbine with a supplementary.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, in the brief presented to the government today by the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, which the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) has already heard, it was pointed out that of the 532,000 children in Ontario under the age of six receiving day care from a nonparent giver, 121,000 are in nonsupervised day care, largely because their parents cannot find accessible and affordable child care facilities.

Will the Deputy Premier indicate his response to the coalition's request for a direct grant of \$7 per day per space to all nonprofit day care centres in order to reduce fees to parents and raise salaries of day care workers who are grossly underpaid in relation to their training and qualifications?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member makes reference, there is no question that in the presentation today, and I

repeat it was a very positive presentation with respect to wanting to try to find some solutions in this whole area, there was a tremendous emphasis on this whole question of the adequacy of funding.

Although one might question the assumption as to the reason there were large numbers of young people or children in the nonsupervised sites, that may well have been a preference of parents. One would have to go into those figures. Nevertheless, having said that, there is no doubt funding is a very important aspect of all we heard today.

There was general agreement some new initiatives had to be taken and we had to place the emphasis on quality child care. I reminded those who were there that was the reason behind that section in the speech from the throne which talked about reviewing access to and quality of child care in the province. It is on the agenda of the federal-provincial conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, which will be convened at Niagara-on-the-Lake in the next couple of weeks. I was in Ottawa last Thursday to meet with the federal minister in charge of those responsibilities.

I want to commend the members of the coalition who came in and gave a very clear summary of those matters. I assured them it would be very helpful to the review at present under way in this very important area of child care.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister had a productive discussion. I think what the coalition is looking for, however, is some direct action. That direct action can be taken by this government, notwithstanding any renegotiations regarding Canada assistance plan programming or other programming at the federal level.

It is clear that as a result of this government's initiative to do away with indirect subsidies by 1986, the very future of municipal day care in communities across this province for parents who are middle and low-to-middle income earners is being threatened.

Will the minister, in response to the coalition's excellent presentation today, agree that indirect subsidies must be maintained, at least until we find a more appropriate mechanism for funding to make sure the families of middle-income earners have access to day care, which is currently being restricted to only the very poor and the very rich?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I was attempting in response to the main question on

this subject to point out that it was my understanding in the exchange today in the cabinet room, when representatives from Wingham brought up this very point, one of the reasons for the problem that has now come to light—and I am not attempting to get into the ping-pong game of putting blame—was the challenge by the government of Canada with respect to its portion being paid in those situations and the minister here being served with a notice that it would be withdrawn by the year 1986.

That sounds to me as if the initiative did not come from here but from the government of Canada, which is the point I was trying to have factually on the record.

The Minister of Community and Social Services, in discussing the matter with those who were there, assured them we had sufficient time to try to come to terms with that matter. I think those representatives, as well as the others, left with some assurance we were not insensitive to the problems that could be created if that problem was not addressed.

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my first question is to the Minister of Labour. I wonder if he would like to comment on a rather dramatic advertisement we, as citizens of the province, have been subjected to. I do not know whether the minister has seen it or not. It is a very recent one put out on television by the Construction Safety Association of Ontario. It portrays in graphic terms a worker who has been suffering from asbestosis. The phrase, "If only he had known," is repeated several times throughout the ad.

Can the minister explain why that phrase is used in that advertisement when it states on page 106 of volume I of the report on asbestos that was issued today, "In the United States, the first formal claim for compensation associated with asbestos exposure was made in 1927. In 1933, Johns-Manville Corp....settled 11 asbestosis claims out of court." It goes on to say compensation was something that could happen in Ontario for pneumoconiosis from asbestos in Ontario in 1926.

The report concludes, at the end of this paragraph, "Thus; it could be said that by the time of the Second World War, the hazard of asbestos as a pneumoconiotic dust was generally recognized."

How can the minister square the statement that it was generally known by the board and by industry 30, 40, even 50 years ago, with the Construction Safety Association still putting out

ads that implicitly blame the victim for his ignorance of the problem? It was generally known in industry this was a problem and the board itself was aware of it by the end of the Second World War, so how can he explain running that ad?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the leader of the third party is aware of this, but just so I can put it on the record in case there are others who are not, the Construction Safety Association is funded by the Workers' Compensation Board which in turn is funded by the employers. Therefore, there is no government money or government direction in the advertisements prepared by the Construction Safety Association.

Mr. McClellan: There is no government direction for the WCB, that is for sure.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, is it all right to continue?

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, please.

Mr. McClellan: Who runs the WCB? You should know that. You sure do not.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I believe the leader of the third party is doing some selective reading. I do not take exception to that because perhaps some of my remarks have been selective as well. However, if that is the approach, let me remind him again of the section of my statement where I indicate the commission has approved of the steps Ontario took in respect to asbestos at the same time other jurisdictions around the world were doing likewise. Ontario was not dragging its feet at any time; in fact, in many cases it was leading the way.

Mr. Rae: If Ontario is leading the way, perhaps in the course of the discussion the minister can explain the outbreak of asbestosis in the Johns-Manville plant. On page 805 in volume 3 of the report it says, "Tragically, what we have categorized as the world-class occupational health disaster at this plant has yet to run its course."

It goes on, on the next page: "The contrast between the financial liability for industrial disease faced by Johns-Manville in Ontario and Johns-Manville in the United States is stunning...In short, Johns-Manville has borne virtually none of the costs of the disease it has occasioned in Ontario, while it was facing a staggering cost for its involvement in similar diseases in the United States."

If Ontario is such a world leader, and in the words of this report the company is responsible

for a "world-class occupational health disaster" in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario, can the minister explain how that is happening at virtually no financial cost to the company, when one compares it to what is happening to the company in other jurisdictions?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: My reference to Ontario leading the way was in respect to regulation and the steps it took to control the use of asbestos in this province. As far as the situation with Johns-Manville is concerned, it is a very serious matter. I and my senior officials have already had one meeting to discuss it and we will have many more over the next few days.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on page 123 of volume 1 of the report, in speaking of the Johns-Manville situation, the authors write: "This world-class occupational health disaster has not yet run its course. There is a distinct possibility, indeed probability, that more asbestos-related deaths are yet to come among the workers who were employed at this plant."

Given the comments from the authors of this report, what is the minister specifically prepared to do in terms of helping those who still survive from Johns-Manville? Also, what is he prepared to do in terms of trying to make Johns-Manville pay up for its cost of what the authors call a "world-class disaster"?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the authors; it is a world-class disaster, there is no doubt about it at all, but as I have said now three times in the Legislature this afternoon and I will say it a fourth and fifth time if necessary, I am not going to stand here today and make snap decisions and snap commitments as to timing of recommendations. It would be irresponsible for me to do so.

Mr. Rae: I think the minister is in this House to report to the House with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board and he has to take some responsibility for what that board has failed to do.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Page 808 of the report says the board has refused to "levy a penalty assessment under section 91(7) of the act for 1980." I would like to quote just briefly from the report:

"The board apparently believes that this is either impossible or inappropriate, but we can find nothing to sustain this view...In our view, failing to levy an assessment in the case of Johns-Manville sends a perverse message to other employers in the province that even a

disastrous worker health experience need not lead to the exercise of section 91(7)," which is the section that deals with the special assessments. "Such a message destroys any incentive that might otherwise exist through the workers' compensation system to protect the health of workers."

There is a specific recommendation in that regard. I would like to ask the minister if he will at least take steps to implement that recommendation, which says that a special penalty should be levied against Johns-Manville in view of its corporate responsibility for what has happened to the health and safety of literally dozens and hundreds of workers in Ontario who are suffering because of its negligence.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am fully prepared to take responsibility for the Workers' Compensation Act and for the Workers' Compensation Board, but I am not prepared, now for the fourth time, to give the member a timetable for action on this report.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOSPITALS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health, who gave what I understand was a private interview to a newspaper reporter, which was quoted in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, in which the minister allowed the thought—if I can use that word in its loosest sense—that since some hospitals were so successful at raising money, this provided the government with the opportunity to cut back on its own capital contributions to hospitals.

Can the minister tell us what possible incentive there is for hospitals to raise money in the community if, as soon as they do so, it is the minister's plan to cut back on the government's own contribution to hospitals that are doing that?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the interview to which the honourable member refers was no more private than any other interview in the scrum. It might be that he did not happen to be in the scrum that day, but I can assure him there was nothing more private than that. In fact, I think I had a note brought to me while I was on House duty on Tuesday of last week, if I am not mistaken, and I stepped out of the House into the hallway to speak with the reporter.

The thrust of the interview, as I recall it, related more to the matter of fund-raising activities for the indirect health care delivery costs of hospitals and the fact that it appeared that very substantial sums of capital funds were being raised by hospitals for other than the direct

provision of care. The concern I had was about the impact this has on the private capacity of people in the community to contribute to the share of the hospital capital necessary.

As I recall, a question was raised about whether there was any consideration of a change in policy or formula with respect to the funding of hospital capital. I indicated that no, there was not at this point, but that there had been a few instances where hospitals had been successful in raising more than the one-third share, for example, and had made a proposal to us, saying: "Look, we are in a position to pay half the capital costs. Can you find the other half?"

I did admit that in some instances it may enable those projects to go ahead earlier than certain others because it was consistent with the lack of availability of all the capital that is being requested at the present time. In fact, I am aware of one project that has been proposed to us at the moment where a hospital has been successful in raising 100 per cent of the capital.

Mr. Rae: For the last two years the ministry has spent less in its capital budget than it allocated for hospitals. There is an overcrowding problem that stretches from Cornwall to Kenora that is tremendous, and the minister is perfectly well aware of it. He knows there are several such communities, including the one in Timmins where the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) has been running around the community promising a hospital for months and years. Indeed, along with a food terminal, it got him elected.

How does the minister expect to solve the staggering problem of hospital overcrowding unless he is prepared to put up some public money to invest in the capital projects that are going to be necessary in the chronic care field and elsewhere to create the hospital beds that will relieve this overcrowding problem? There is an immense crisis. The minister knows that. Why is he simply putting all the pressure on charity drives to solve this problem when it is as much his responsibility as anyone else's?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think the honourable member has completely misunderstood a number of things, which is perhaps not surprising.

We have made very substantial contributions to hospital capital over the last many years in this province. I have forgotten the precise figure for last year. It was in the range of \$150 million. This year it will be in the range of \$170 million, if I am not mistaken. The suggestion that we are not making our fair contribution is based on the fact the member either has not reviewed the estimates

and the expenditure of my ministry, or if he has, he has misunderstood them.

The other matter about which the member appears to have an unjustified level of hysteria is what he calls overcrowding. The issue is much more complex than I think the member would like it to be perceived. I suggest that he look at the article in the *Toronto Star* last week where a reporter did what I thought was a thorough, well-informed and well-researched article suggesting the matter was not quite as simplistic as the member persists in portraying it. There may be other meaningful alternatives to deal with the sometimes temporary overcrowding situations that seem to arise in some hospitals.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the minister is telling us, except perhaps that he does not want to deal with complex issues.

How does he relate that to the fact that at Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton the bed ratio is 1.8 beds per thousand, related to a provincial average in the four per thousand range? There is a crisis. In Brampton and Bramalea there are people in the hallways. There is now public talk of a danger of lawsuits because of the shortage of beds in that area. How does the minister's policy relate to that? How is he going to solve that specific, real and ongoing problem?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, there is a building program under way already at Peel Memorial Hospital. It is an ongoing expansion program. They have a very astute and perceptive member of the Legislature who understands their problems thoroughly and actually makes recommendations to the Minister of Health for his consideration from time to time.

One should be careful in looking only at bed ratios because there are other examples in this province—in fact, in the Golden Horseshoe—where there are communities that are not at the provincial guideline of 3.5 beds, yet are able to cope quite well with that number of beds.

Ratios alone are not the answer. They are guidelines, and we are trying to achieve them in all the communities across the province where it appears to be necessary. The member's question goes back to Peel Memorial Hospital. If he will look at what is happening out there, he will see we are trying to address it.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister will be aware that at the present rate of capital funding from his ministry it will take 30 to 40 years just to meet the capital requirements he has admitted in this Legislature currently exist.

At the same time, every day the minister denies there is a problem. He says that on this side of the House we are acting in an hysterical way; yet he will not provide capital for more beds. He will not put in place the community supports and community programs so that we can lessen the need for the use of hospitals. He does not seem to want to take action if he believes the problem is the number of doctors.

If none of these alternatives is going to be exploited by the minister to solve the problem, and he says the problem is so complicated, perhaps instead of saying how complicated the problem is he could present to us right now what the Ministry of Health strategy is for dealing with hospital overcrowding in Ontario. People's lives are being put at risk by the overcrowding that currently exists in hospitals all across Ontario.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if the honourable member has one supporter there anyway. Perhaps it would serve him well to speak to the administrative staff in some of the hospitals to which he refers. I do that from time to time.

Mr. Cooke: So do we.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member's portrayal of the situation as one that is overcrowded certainly does occur from time to time. I think the answer, not in whole but in part, is to look at the way in which the allocation of beds takes place at present within hospitals and within broader communities. There is a very good example in Hamilton where a year and a half or so ago the feeling was there was a drastic shortage of beds.

Mr. Cooke: What is the minister doing to solve the problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: One of the things that at least in the short term has assisted a great deal in that community is the establishment of a central bed registry on computer. It seems to have worked very well. We are not getting the same kinds of reports. There is better utilization of existing beds.

I told the member in the House that in Metropolitan Toronto, for example, where that same accusation is made from time to time, at any given moment—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question.

EDUCATIONAL TRANSFERS

Mr. Peterson: The minister is even boring you, Mr. Speaker. Did he notice that?

I have an important question for the Minister of Education about funding. The minister will be aware that she announced that, on average, educational transfers would go up by five per cent this year. Is she aware of the survey by the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario that turns up some very different figures from her own? For example, is she aware that in Metropolitan Toronto, there will in real terms be a 17.2 per cent cut in the transfer? In Carleton it will be 5.3 per cent and in Ottawa it will be 8.5 per cent?

How does she expect to maintain the quality of education in Ontario when she is cutting the transfers to so many important large school boards?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in actual fact there will be a five per cent increase on average in the total amount delivered to the school boards across Ontario.

The honourable member has referred to a document produced by the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario. Those are the boards that have the largest increase in assessment in Ontario. As the member undoubtedly knows, the rate of transfer is affected directly by two factors: the increased rate of assessment within the municipality or the region involved and the board's jurisdiction, and the numbers of pupils involved. Within the large school boards there has in most circumstances been a significant decline in enrolment again this year and a very significant increase in assessment.

Mr. Peterson: I assume the minister is not refuting the facts about what is really going on in these communities. If she is, then she can stand up in the House and be quite welcome to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: She will recall that in 1970 the former Minister of Education, her leader, the Premier (Mr. Davis) said, "The grant plan for 1970 was designed to increase the proportion of total cost of education borne by the province to some 60 per cent by 1972." That was the commitment then. Is she aware that the provincial contribution in Metropolitan Toronto to education is now 10.4 per cent; in Hamilton it is 33.5 per cent; in Ottawa it is 17.7 per cent; and in Windsor it is 30 per cent?

The minister is coming nowhere near the promise made by the former Minister of Education, who is now her leader, to bear 60 per cent of the cost of education in this province. How can the quality of education be maintained when the government at the same time is raising taxes way above inflation and putting an insupportable

burden on those taxpayers? How can it do that and maintain the quality of education in this province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The quality of education must undoubtedly bear some relationship to the amount of money that is spent. I can tell the member the taxpayers of Ontario this year will spend \$6,250,000,000 in support of elementary and secondary education throughout the province. That is twice the amount expended in 1976 and almost three times what it was in 1970. The cost of education has far outstripped the increase in the consumer price index, the increase in the price of food and the increase in the price of a whole lot of other things.

It is all very well to suggest we can maintain, with monumental increases annually to the amount that is delivered through the general legislative grant, the ratio of 60 per cent to 40 per cent. That is not possible when the total cost is an open-ended amount of money over which the province has no direct control.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, the minister may speak about cost of living increases and indexes of various kinds, but I think if she looks closely at a recent study in the Canadian Tax Journal, she will see some fairly clear statistics there which indicate—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: Has the minister seen the article in the Canadian Tax Journal which indicates quite clearly that this province for a decade has lain behind the national average of the other provinces in the percentages of gross provincial product devoted to education in every single sector in which the ministry expends money, with the exception of the very beginning of the decade 1971-72 in the post-secondary sector. The elementary panel and the secondary panel are both behind the national average level.

Will the minister guarantee she will move provincial funding for education in this province towards national average levels in order to bring us abreast of the percentages of gross provincial product devoted to education in this country?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, although I have not read the publication the member is talking about, it is my understanding that the amount of money expended by the taxpayers in this province in support of elementary and secondary education is second only to that of Quebec—or perhaps it is third this year across Canada. It is above the national average now in the elementary and secondary areas and has been, I think, for some time. For many years

we were second only to Quebec in the area of elementary and secondary funding. On the basis of the amount of money expended on behalf of each pupil, I think the taxpayers of this province are being very generous, and I believe the quality of the program provided is second to none anywhere in Canada.

RED HILL CREEK EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware of the correspondence between us over the costs of the proposed Red Hill Creek freeway extension? To date, the minister has argued that an environmental assessment hearing has not yet been held and that at this time no financial arrangements have been made. Would he be prepared to give us a more definitive answer as to what the percentage of the costs covered by the province is likely to be on this project?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of hesitancy about making a commitment for funding to a major project such as the honourable member is discussing. At this stage, as I have previously told him, the environmental assessment has not yet been dealt with and no decision has been made as to the staging of the construction of this project, if and when it is approved environmentally.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the minister telling us the cost sharing is a matter of negotiation only after the environmental assessment hearing? Does he not understand that the province's share as a percentage would seriously affect the actions and thinking of a number of municipal councillors and citizens with respect to the project if they were aware how much the region of Hamilton-Wentworth might have to commit and how much the local residents might have to pay of this \$140-million suggested cost at present?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I expect there would have to be some special discussions and arrangements with regard to funding as there was for the Burlington Street project, which has just been completed in Hamilton. That major project, which cost about \$35 million, was funded. We sat down with the region and worked out a funding basis over a period of years as to how that could be built.

I am prepared to do the same for the Red Hill Creek expressway if and when it is to proceed. However, I do not anticipate there is going to be any special level of funding available for the project.

HYDRO LINES

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask a question of the Minister of Energy. Is it true that Ontario Hydro has made a selection from the five proposed hydro lines going through eastern Ontario? If it is true, can he tell us which one it is?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that Ontario Hydro has indeed put forward its preferred route for the transmission lines in eastern Ontario. I cannot confirm for the honourable member which one of a number of alternatives was chosen or put forward, but I understand existing rights of way have been followed as far as possible to reduce the impact on local residents, and indeed on agriculture.

The member is aware as well that all these options will now be put forward to a joint board hearing under the Consolidated Hearings Act, and that board's decision will be rendered after full public input.

Mr. Wiseman: Can the minister tell us the time frame that might take place? I know there is a board that finally decides on the route, whether it be this route they are talking about or another, but is there a time frame of five or six months? Will there be some more public meetings held? Will the public have any input at this time?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The second stage of the hearings, the route stage, does involve a very extensive public information and public input opportunity. I assume Ontario Hydro will move towards a request to the board for these hearings when the proper documents are prepared and at a time when it is appropriate for the major portion of the agricultural community to make input at these hearings.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, regarding the eastern Ontario power corridor, it seemed a strange coincidence last fall that during the course of a by-election the portion of that route from Ottawa to the Quebec border was deleted. Now that the by-election is over, that portion of the hydro corridor was been reinstated some two or three weeks ago.

Can the minister indicate to us why something that was not needed six months ago is so urgently needed now?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the honourable member's question and the opportunity to respond to it, because the member is totally incorrect, which is often the case.

The deletion of that plan was referred to by the member's leader in the estimates of the Ministry of Energy. If the member checks the date of that

deletion, he will find it took place prior to the event, which was the death of Mr. Villeneuve—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: If the member checks the record, he will find Hydro made the deletion prior to the event that triggered the by-election, which was the death of Mr. Villeneuve, the member.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Energy explain why it is that throughout all the studies of eastern Ontario routes, Hydro has at no time given serious consideration to the routes along the St. Lawrence near Highway 401, where existing hydro lines are already located?

Is that failure on Hydro's part due to intervention by the then member and minister for the area, the Hon. James Auld, who tried to make sure it stayed out of his backyard and went on to the backyard of the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman)?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I have no recollection of any intervention at the current hearings by any government member. Indeed, the former minister from that area, I assume, was a participant in the public information process leading up to these events.

Certainly the public hearings and the records of those public hearings will show who made those interventions. The decision of the board as a result of those interventions and the information put forward by Ontario Hydro is a matter of public record.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) asked about the contents of the Ontario student assistance program booklet for 1984-85. I told the honourable member I would investigate to find out why the section he was concerned about was not included in the booklet.

I did so and I am given to believe that the financial aid administrators themselves requested that the sections used to calculate an OSAP assessment be removed from the 1984-85 brochure.

Mr. McClellan: The minister told us it was supposed to be in there.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It has always been, and I understood it would be this year. But apparently the financial aid administrators felt strongly that the students had real difficulty in calculating accurately their entitlement from the information that had always been provided in the

brochure; they felt it was far too complex for them. They felt students were misled by this, and they asked the student assistance staff to remove this section from the booklet.

They said very clearly they would help the students in any circumstance in which they needed assistance, but they had found out in the past that the students, in attempting to perform their own assessments, often arrived at very incorrect award totals, which created unrealistic expectations for assistance they simply did not receive.

As a result of this request of the financial aid administrators, that portion was deleted, and the FAAs have stated very clearly that they are prepared to provide students with all the information upon request at each institution in the province.

We did try to encourage the students this year to apply early, because we felt it would provide them with the opportunity to get as much information as they could from the FAAs. But that was the request of the financial aid administrators.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Colleges and Universities whether the present move to delete that information is the precursor to the freedom of information act that her government has been promising for the last number of years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it would be ludicrous to suggest that is so, because the information is simply information regarding the way in which the student assistance program is calculated.

Ms. Copps: So why not include it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The financial aid administrators requested that we not do it, since they felt the students were misled by it; so it has been deleted for this year. If we find out it is not appropriate to do this, we will put it back in next year.

CASE LOAD AT CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I am sure the minister is well aware of the increasing demands being placed on children's aid societies across the province.

I want to raise with him the case of the children's aid society in Sudbury, where case loads have increased from 725 families in 1980 to 950 families in 1983, despite a decrease in the numbers of families and children in the area.

The number of child physical abuse cases in 1981 was 111; in 1983 it was 143. The number of alleged sexual child abuse cases in 1981 was 15, and in 1983 that number had risen to the startling figure of 54. Despite this, the minister's funding increase over the last two years has been five per cent and five per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: What kind of supportive funding steps is the minister prepared to implement to ensure that CASs such as that in Sudbury are able to meet their demands financially?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, my people are in the process of meeting with the Sudbury society to analyse the particular trends. If those trends, which first showed up in the first quarter of the year, are real trends, we will be providing the society with the resources it needs to meet them. We do not intend to wait until December to find out what it needs.

Mr. Wrye: With respect, they did not show up in the first quarter of this year. Those are figures that are a year or two years old. The trend line is fairly obvious. The minister can sit in his place and shake his head, but that is a fact.

What is the minister specifically prepared to do, given the problem of the children's aid society in Sudbury, which had a deficit last year of \$139,000 and is going to have to use some of the \$300,000 or so increase given to it this year to apply to the deficit?

Is the minister prepared to turn over this year, dollar for dollar, that portion of the budget of the Sudbury CAS which is entirely recoverable from the federal authorities—that is, that portion of the budget for the four Indian bands which the Sudbury region CAS serves—or is he also going to limit that portion of the budget to the five per cent limitation?

Hon. Mr. Drea: As I said just a moment ago, we are in the process of sitting down with the children's aid society of Sudbury—which did not go to the honourable member's dinner the other night, by the way—and if the resources are not sufficient for it to meet its needs, particularly the case load, then the resources will be provided.

CANADIAN CONTENT

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, if I can have his attention. The minister will likely recall that on April 3 I posed a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr.

Baetz) on the printing of the Shoot to Score lottery tickets in the United States.

As Chairman of Management Board, with some responsibility for proper tendering of contracts, will he tell this House whether it is not true that the information which the minister gave the House and the media at that time was seriously incorrect and incomplete and did contravene the Canadian preference section of the Ontario Manual of Administration?

Specifically, was not the contract with Scientific Games of Atlanta, Georgia, for \$4,279,000, not \$800,000? Is it also not true that there was no tendering, that the Ontario Lottery Corp. received a submission from only two other companies and that Scientific Games was not the low bidder? Will the minister now commit himself to having these tenders tabled in the House?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, it has been made clear to the honourable member or members that questions on contracts that are under the aegis of a ministry or one of its agencies are to be asked to the ministers.

Mr. Swart: Surely the minister has some responsibility for the purchase agreements under the Management Board. When he is looking into this—as I hope he will, because his answer is unbelievable—will he find out whether it is not true that security, as mentioned in the answer given by the minister, had nothing to do with awarding the contract to Scientific Games?

Does the minister know the presidents of the Atlantic Lottery Corp., Loto Québec and the Western Canada Lottery Corp. have all said the technology exists in Canada equal to that in the United States, the price is cheaper here and those lottery corporations have awarded no contracts to the United States in the last three years?

Will the minister find out whether the real reason for awarding the contract to Scientific Games of Atlanta is the fact that a former six-year director of the Ontario Lottery Corp., Mr. Harold Freeman, is now a consultant for Scientific Games and negotiated the contract with the Ontario Lottery Corp.?

Hon. Mr. McCague: I can only reiterate, those questions should be addressed to the minister.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the government House leader.

With the speculation arising about the possibility of a provincial election in the relatively

near future—although that speculation has been dampened a bit as a result of the latest polls—and with the introduction into the House for consideration of this Legislature of Bill 17, would the minister not agree with me that it is time to introduce a new degree of fairness in our provincial elections not only by limiting the campaign expenditures and media advertising to the last 21 days but also by placing a limitation on all expenditures made by candidates and political parties during election campaigns?

Would he agree with me as well that the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses should be given the mandate to review advertising by the government to determine whether it is of a partisan nature and designed to promote this government using taxpayers' money?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the only thing I would like to say is that I am not aware of any recent polls that would dampen our enthusiasm over here for calling an election. Any provincial polls I have seen here, I would think, would dampen the enthusiasm of the honourable member opposite for a provincial election.

In regard to the other questions he has asked, the government has no intention to introduce any amendments to the Election Finances Reform Act at the present time.

PETITIONS

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition that reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private members' bills of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wines in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by another 138 people.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition that reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This petition is signed by constituents from my riding of Ottawa Centre.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 34 constituents which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors of the towns of Dresden and Thamesville and the townships of Howard, Orford, Zone and Camden, respectfully petition for your support to redress a serious injustice in current educational policy and practice.

"The facts are simple. In the past five years parents who send their children to independent schools have contributed \$1 billion for education in Ontario without receiving a cent for the education of their own children. In fact, they have had to bear a double burden through fees and contributions for their own independent schools.

"Furthermore, in a democratic and multi-cultural society parents should have the right to send their children to schools of choice without a financial penalty. This is recognized partially in the case of Catholic families and, with minor exceptions, fully in the case of Franco-Ontarians. It should apply equally to all."

3:40 p.m.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I had intended to raise this matter immediately at the end of question period. When I saw that the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) was not in his place, I waited a minute. But I do want to bring this to your attention, sir.

One week ago the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) asked the minister to inquire into and report on the matters raised by my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) and me regarding Judge Henriksen. The minister indicated he would report, but he has not yet done so.

I hope we can get that report at the first possible moment.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the government House leader will nudge his colleague.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Welch, first reading of Bill 57, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, this bill is identical to one introduced last session that died on the order paper. It is to provide for certain spouses' allowances and to change the method of calculating average annual remuneration from three fiscal years to 36 months.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (concluded)

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to finally get an opportunity to enter into the debate. I want to begin by saying a couple of words about the rather unusual circumstances that have occurred during these estimates.

In normal times, the critics would have an opportunity to respond to what is usually a fairly substantial opening statement by the minister. Then other members would have an opportunity to participate in the estimates, to raise issues about which they are concerned. I know a number of members would like to do that.

This is not going to happen. It is not going to happen because last Thursday evening we all stood around for an hour and a half listening to the bells ring. I am unconvinced as to exactly what was going on that evening. It was a most unusual piece of business where the Liberal critic raised some questions which he had put on the Orders and Notices.

I am not too sure how that fits into this, but there are no rules to estimates and so it was let go. At the end of that, he asked for the bells to be

rung, and they were. The clock runs while those bells are ringing.

I am at a bit of a loss to explain exactly what transpired here. I am not sure whether there was a little manoeuvre on the way to gain great publicity for the unusual occasion of that member being present in the House. We should note he is again not here this afternoon.

Mr. Boudria: He is on his way.

Mr. Breagh: I would be willing to put cash money on the fact he will not arrive until tomorrow. I think it would be a fairly safe bet based on his previous attendance in the House.

However, I want to point out there is a little problem here in the sense that other members will not have an opportunity to participate in this debate. There are some members in my caucus who would like to participate on French-language services and the rights of native people. They would like the opportunity to discuss what are being touted as our nonbicentennial celebrations which are going on this summer and several other related matters.

This is somewhat unfortunate. Perhaps it is a matter at which the House leaders ought to take a look. There was a not very often used rule put to the House which was in order and that is what caused the little bell-ringing incident. I must say it was one of the finest speeches made by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy). Thursday evening was his finest hour. On Friday morning he ruined it by drivelling on for a lengthy period about some other matters.

I want to begin with some discussion around French-language services, certainly an issue that has been discussed a great deal. It is sometimes difficult to be a critic for this ministry because the minister takes such a low profile in the Legislature on matters related to intergovernment affairs.

Mr. Stokes: He does not even pay attention to what you have to say.

Mr. Breagh: Yes. That is not unusual. He is preoccupied with his business as government House leader. It is unfortunate that a matter as substantial as French-language services is put into a portfolio that is not given a very high priority in the activity here at Queen's Park.

One often has to read speeches the minister gives on occasion in other places, and he did incorporate one of those speeches into his opening remarks. Much of the activity of the ministry is carried on elsewhere, which compounds the problem. For example, a few of us have had an opportunity to visit Ontario House in London or to drop in on our agent general in New

York City, or social-business arrangements during someone's foray somewhere have included dropping in on Ontario House.

There is no way for members of the Legislature to know or understand exactly what an agent general does. It continues to be a perplexing operation. There is not much accountability when the offices are in some other jurisdiction and when the job description is not well understood. I want to come to that later and make comments about some of the activities that go on.

In large measure, this ministry is less accountable to the Legislature than other ministries by virtue of the fact that much of the activity happens outside the Ontario Legislature. The minister is present at various conferences between the provinces of Canada or the provinces and the federal government. We are aware the agents general are in place and those offices are functioning. We see the amounts included in the estimates but it is difficult for honourable members to have much of an opportunity to actually see what is going on.

I want to put in another plug for some consideration on the part of the minister when there are federal-provincial conferences that are not highly confidential in nature. It would be a useful exercise to have Ontario represented by more than just the government party. I know this is a sore point with the government because it likes to go to these conferences unfettered by opposition critics, but I think it would be a worthwhile concept for the minister to consider.

There are a number of issues being debated at great conferences held with governments of all political stripes across the country where the issues surpass, so to speak, matters of a normal partisan nature that we would debate here in the Legislature.

One of the mechanisms the minister uses that is quite useful is to put a resolution on the order paper and schedule a debate in the Legislature. I believe the latest was on the rights of native people. In that debate and on the few other occasions when that technique has been used, it became apparent that members on all sides were generally in unison. There are certain matters we can discuss without a great deal of rancour. It would be a useful exercise, if only for the government's information, to have the opposition critics as participants in some way.

This would have to be done between Tuesdays and Thursdays every week or the Liberal Party could not participate, but I think there is an obvious need to use them perhaps simply as a sounding board. The Legislature itself would

function in a slightly better, more appropriate way if there was an opportunity for the Ontario government to take representatives from each party to those conferences.

I am not proposing they would take an active role at a table where a formal position is presented, but if it could clear the way for us to be there just as observers, it would be a useful exercise to consider.

3:50 p.m.

On matters such as native rights, many of us feel very strongly that our native people have not been dealt with in a fair and honourable way for a long time. I believe the minister shares that feeling. There are very complicated issues on the bargaining table where attempts are being made to sort out aboriginal rights and the rights of nonstatus Indians and Metis. In watching the proceedings at the last conference, which I had the opportunity to do, I really began to get some appreciation of how difficult that task is. The government is not dealing with just one group of people with one set of positions on the table; it very often has to deal with several groups at the same time.

I noted with great frustration at the conclusion of that conference there was frustration on all sides. There were people who seemed to have a consensus that they wanted to do the right thing, but it seemed very difficult to determine exactly what the right thing was. It is fair to say at the end of that conference a lot of dissatisfaction was voiced about how this is being done. There was not quite a threat, but an innuendo that if we could not deal with it at that conference it was not going to be dealt with for another year or so.

There was immense frustration among the groups representing the native people; a feeling of, "This is a hell of a way to run a railroad. We are negotiating something very complicated and we are doing it in a very public forum. If it does not get resolved this afternoon, it will not be on the agenda again for another few months, another year, who knows." It seemed to me they were expressing frustration that had built up over a lengthy period. The people were talking about their rights and there was not even a good mechanism in place to resolve the problems surrounding those rights.

The other issue I want to spend a little time on is French-language services. That has certainly been in the news across Canada as people have attempted to determine exactly how this should be put into law. For example, in Manitoba there has been a raging debate and another incident of bell-ringing. The government of Manitoba moved

to do what we in this party think is the appropriate thing; that is, to acknowledge, even if it is somewhat symbolic, that francophones have language rights and those ought to be enshrined in provincial law.

There was great difficulty. I am sure francophones across the country are somewhat confused now about the position of the the federal Conservative Party and of the Manitoba Conservative Party. No good resolution has come about there either. It would now appear, in Manitoba at least, the matter will not be decided by an act of the Manitoba Legislature. It will now be decided by a court. It seems to me it runs against the grain that francophones in this country have linguistic rights in some places but not in others.

I want to give this government some credit here. The government has acknowledged there is a need and a right, and it does not cost a whole lot of money to provide francophones with some limited rights. It has addressed itself to things like courts and education and dealing with the various ministries. This can be done, it can be done without a great deal of disruption and it can be done without a great deal of public expenditure. We are caught in the odd situation in Ontario of having French-language services provided at the pleasure of the government. That is what is wrong with the government's position.

I want to speak to one other aspect of that. There is a current trendy political phrase called "issue management." We had some interesting discussions with some of our members from Manitoba about this. They admitted they had some problems, because they had not spent enough time explaining to people exactly what French-language services would mean. Because they had not done that issue management stuff this government does so magnificently, quite frankly, that was where their initial problems began. Given that this government has skills in managing issues, which are really quite impressive—I hope I say that in a nonpartisan way—the government does a wonderful job convincing the people of Ontario that something ought to happen.

Mr. Stokes: It sort of conditions them to it.

Mr. Breaugh: Yes. There is a certain mindset at work here. There is mind control. They release this, that and the other thing. News stories and editorials appear. The greatest example of that is that in the middle of a recessionary period, when we have 1.5 million people out of work in this country, when we are having a hard time with school boards and municipal councils saying there is not money to provide centres for battered

women, there is not money to provide good children's aid services, there is not money to provide for good education, there is not money to pave potholes, the issue now being managed by the Tories over there is the domed stadium.

On the surface, it takes a lot of chutzpah for them to say, "We are pleading poverty, we are in a recession and we have an anti-inflation program at work, but we are going to build a \$150-million domed stadium somewhere." They seem to have it and they seem to be managing that issue. As I watch it develop, I see it popping up here, there and all over the place. I now see people who a year ago were saying domed stadiums were for the birds, that it was a crazy idea and that they would never spend that kind of public money, jumping on side with the concept. The issue management scene is hard at work on a domed stadium.

I am going to put to them this afternoon that I wish they would take the same set of skills and put it to work on French-language services. I have read the minister's speeches on several occasions when he has waxed eloquent about all the good things he does for francophones in this province.

I warrant he rarely bends the truth in all that. He does have a pretty good case and, if I were arguing the other side of the issue, I would probably say he has more than cereal boxes going here, that he has it right down to Ontario health insurance plan cards and everything else. There are some practical aspects to this where the government has made some moves, but the difficulty is there is a symbolic thing that needs to be done and I think the government knows it as well.

It is interesting to read the fine distinctions between what the minister says and what other members of the government say. On occasion, if one is not alert, one might think the minister was making a speech designed for someone from my caucus. He goes right up to the point of saying there ought to be constitutional recognition in law for francophones in Ontario.

He goes right up to the brink of that. He just does not take the extra step. That is the extra step we are waiting for. That is the one we want to see. We grant him that many of the things he has done in the provision of services are things which are not only useful but well done; not extravagant expenditures of money, not inconveniencing other people, but simply seeing that francophones have some rights and services provided to them.

I see that in the latest little dance over the line, the "where numbers warrant" part has gone by the boards as well. The minister is getting there. I am just urging him to manage that issue a little faster to see whether he cannot put in place in the foreseeable future what many of us think is absolutely necessary, and that is that those French-language services be provided and those rights be assured to francophones in Ontario.

I want to say a couple of things about the old bicentennial stuff. The Liberal critic went on at great length about how he could not get answers to questions. My experience on certain matters is quite the opposite. I do not really have problems getting answers from the ministry. The problem is one has to know the right question and one has to know which minister to ask, and one also has to be here to get the answers.

I have followed the bicentennial celebration with some interest since it began. Taking this talk about issue management, this is one that has evolved rather nicely. I read the first announcement solely in English about a celebration of the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists. I noticed that was not flying too well, so we are celebrating this year the bicentennial of something. We are not sure of what. The map makers say it should have been one year earlier. The history I taught said there was a constitutional act but it did not happen in 1784. I do not know how they missed seven years.

At any rate, I notice in the current literature coming out on the bicentennial that the focus has clearly shifted. The Loyalists are still there, but we are really celebrating in this bicentennial celebration whatever it is we want to celebrate. It is about as simple as that. There will be good times this summer.

Mr. Ruston: Thanks to \$25 million.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Shame on you, a Napanee boy talking like that.

Mr. Breaugh: If the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) went down to Hay Bay and told the Loyalists around Hay Bay this was their bicentennial year, they would boot him out of town. He knows that. They are sticklers for detail. They believe in accuracy. They are proud of their ancestry and they would take some objection to that.

I noticed the pictures downstairs of Hay Bay, Grace Church and all that. That is great stuff, but I think we ought to admit openly that what we are celebrating here is the pre-election phase of the next election. We are out there drumming up a little support for the Conservative Party. We are giving away buttons and handing out cheques,

posters, books and all that. We are softening up the public for next year's election. We ought to admit that.

4 p.m.

Someone asked me the other day if I am participating in the bicentennial celebration, and I said, "You bet I am." I know what this is. This is pre-election work and I am interested in that election, I am going to be there. I will be handing out buttons, posters and anything else the government wants to print up. No question about it, the answer is yes. That is the way this thing works. We are planting trees all over Ontario. It is pretty hard to argue against planting trees.

At some point people are going to ask the interesting question, how much will all this cost? That is a good question and a tough one to get an answer to because the original releases started out talking about about a \$10-million expenditure. I took a look at that. I have seen this act before and thought from the way this is going more than \$10 million will be spent. I have been making a few inquiries, but the difficulty is one cannot quite put one's finger on who is spending the money, because the truth is that everybody is spending the money. Everybody has his version of a bicentennial, whatever it is, from trees to flags to whatever.

Here are some interesting things. One of the kids in my riding brought home a publication called "An Informed History of the Land and its People." I opened it up and I must say I did not like the insert on the inside front cover. The rest of the book was not too bad, but on the inside was a picture of my two least favourite people. It was probably unnecessary to include the 2,240,000 copies of what is tantamount to a pre-election poster of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). I am not guaranteeing this completely answers the question of all the expenditures on the printing of that one book, but it says the preparation cost was \$63,030, the printing cost was \$780,000 and the distribution cost was \$20,731.

That makes this a fairly expensive little book. It has to be one of the most expensive pre-election leaflets ever put together. That does not count the staff time and all the other wonderful ways in which a government can hide things.

This answer to a written question tells me what the government is prepared to tell me. It does not tell me about staff time and it does not tell me about consultants. Maybe I did not ask about all the intricacies that can hide expenditures, but it does tell me that on the surface the government spent very close to \$1 million on one book, a

pretty good book. It is an attractive document, I want to say that, too.

I asked a couple of other questions related to this and got some partial answers, as much as the ministry was prepared to provide about how much money is going out to municipalities and, of course, that act is not totally over with yet.

I asked about the bicentennial posters that I also thought were rather interesting. One could read this and say that roughly \$130,431 was spent on them. It is a rather nifty-looking poster, I must say. Is it around \$5 or \$6 that they are being sold for? It is something such as that, but that is rather irrelevant because they are being given away to anybody who can handle them.

I want to go on to the buttons which, according to an answer to a written question, cost \$27,891. I want to get this on the record because I suspect it is going to cost just a touch more than this.

For example, here is the kind of answer that is more to the norm. I asked the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean) to table the following information regarding the bicentennial flags: the name of the manufacturing firm, the number produced, the cost of production and the cost of distribution. I think those are fairly straightforward questions.

Here are the answers. The first is Canadiana Textile Screen Prints Ltd., manufacturers. I am told they produced 2,016 three by six-foot flags, 28,000 five by 10-inch table flags and 100 four and a half by nine-foot flags. Standing order costs for flags were at the rate of \$18.50 for the first, \$1.25 for the table flags and \$31 for the large flags. It then goes on to talk about the distribution, who got them, but it does not tell me how much it cost. Somewhere between one Orders and Notices question and another, someone seems to have twigged on to the fact that an adding machine may be in operation here at some time and they should cease to answer them.

That is rather unfortunate because I think that little bicentennial party is going to be a rather expensive operation. I am not afraid to say that, in my view, by the time this has all been rolled in, \$25 million or \$30 million will have gone into various forms of bicentennial celebrations. Perhaps we will even have the domed stadium. I have said publicly that if they want to call it the Bill Davis Memorial Domed Stadium, I am in support of it. They can put it anywhere they want.

Mr. McClellan: As long as it is in Bellwoods.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Even if it is in Oshawa.

Mr. Breaugh: The requests are rolling in here.

I wanted to cover a couple of other things. I do follow what the minister has to say, even when he goes to downtown Edmonton, Alberta. I reread a speech he gave in September 1983 out there. He was making some observations about intergovernmental relationships, particularly between the provinces. It seems to me that is an issue that was receiving a lot of media attention in those days and is now receiving less of it.

However, the tensions between Newfoundland and Quebec or the western provinces and central Canada have not shifted very much. If anything, there has been a population movement which may have resolved some of those problems, but those fundamental tensions around who has the right to do what remain. In relationships between and among our provinces, there are still disputes being harboured.

Unfortunately, no one is in much of a position to make a comment on that because a lot of the negotiations are done privately among the ministers. I think that is a bit unfortunate because many people could make a valuable contribution to that.

I will not go into all the minister's speech, but he did make some interesting comments. I think in his own way he was attempting to patch up some fences there. That needs to be done and this minister is certainly a man who could serve his country rather well with regard to patching up differences and negotiating. He does a rather good job of that.

I want to talk about a couple of other things. I am intrigued by the operations of the agents general. I am also intrigued by the notion that some provincial governments are more actively represented in Washington, for example, than Ontario. In our discussions with embassy staff there, they were saying the federal government is not too crazy about the idea that all the provinces would come down to a place like Washington, set up shop, either with an agent general or without one, and go to work. They prefer the provinces to work through the Canadian embassy there. It strikes me that is a good, solid argument, for a number of reasons.

However, I do think it is important that Ontario be aware that there is a large government at work there and sometimes rather crazy things happen. For example, in resolutions that were going through the Congress when we were down there last fall, there were immense ramifications for Ontario around the auto industry or the unusual proposal to keep the Great Lakes open all winter long and to open up some different ports along there. Those are matters Ontario should

have a pretty good handle on. We should have a good understanding why things are happening.

I understand a resolution is still tootling around Capitol Hill about the auto industry. It was worded in such a way that it would preclude the auto pact and would virtually shut out the Canadian auto industry from distributing to the American market. I was rather surprised to find that bill actually had a chance. It was headed down the pike, but everyone said not to worry, the President was going to veto it. Even should it get through Congress, it is not going to happen. So there are things Ontario should be aware of.

4:10 p.m.

One of the things the ministry announced rather grandly last year was the opening of a Paris office with an agent general. I have been intrigued that Adrienne Clarkson, who is well known to most people in Canada as a broadcaster, was selected to be the agent general in Paris. I try as best I can—and it ain't easy—to follow that development, to keep an eye on what is going on over there and whether she is doing a good job or not.

I was interested to read an article in a magazine called *Metropolitan Toronto Business Journal* on her function as an agent general. It is rather informative because it appears she does actually have a job, does actually work and does actually do certain sorts of things. What impressed me was one little part of this article, which reads as follows:

"But the fact of the matter is world trade has become a lot more difficult. The days are gone when you could get on an airplane, fly over to Europe, sell somebody a product and fly home. Governments are having to contend with the problems of worldwide unemployment. There's probably going to be more subsidization in industry all over the world as a result."

She goes on to say, and there is one other little quote here: "There may be the realization that perhaps initiative has to come from somewhere and perhaps some degree of government initiative working with private industry may not be a bad solution in years to come."

I am not sure that is exactly the role of the agent general, but obviously she is playing that role and making those comments, and I must say this shows to me that she has certainly gathered up considerable insight into problems around world trade. She has laid on the table that this is not just a matter of the Premier flying off somewhere with a couple of lower-ranking cabinet ministers in tow and participating in a trade fair or holding some kind of show. She

seems to me to have got a rather quick grasp of the difficulties that are involved in the world trade situation now. It seems to me she has a good understanding of the needs of Ontario industry and how those needs might be met in a different market.

From a business point of view, if that is the major portion of an agent general's job—and I assume it is—we do appear to have rather competent people there who are picking up on trends in world trade and practices of other governments and recognizing that some of the simplistic notions that are sometimes touted around this Legislature are not going to work any more. If that is a function of the agent general—and certainly with Ms. Clarkson it seems to be—then it seems we have at least done something worth while in having someone like her in a place like Paris looking at how, for example, the European common market countries function and how other nations of the world develop their techniques for building an industrial sector that does not fly in the wind but has some measure of stability to it. That is certainly the kind of thing I would support.

I must say I was rather impressed on reading that article that there was someone acting on Ontario's behalf who had a great deal of intelligence going for her and certainly a tremendous amount of sensitivity.

I want to put a couple of other things on the record too because these are other areas that I think are important to us. There have been a number of news stories, mostly in regional press reports, about some Japanese auto maker locating somewhere in Ontario. This, I think, is a bit of a loose area in here.

As members may recall, a big auto task force was put out last year, which many of us—on this side, at least—heartily endorsed, which addressed itself to problems in the auto industry. The federal government chose not to go with Canadian content legislation, which I would have preferred. Its response seems to be, “We will go and find some great big Japanese auto producer and we will have him build a plant somewhere in Ontario.”

It is the mechanics of this that bother me just slightly. Since this is supposedly a Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, it seems to me that if it does not have a role it ought to have some kind of role in what the federal government is doing when it is engaging in this type of activity, because this has all the appearances of a can loose on the deck. Some Japanese auto maker—and it is

touted that it will be Honda—is going to put a production facility somewhere in Ontario.

Harking back to debates we had here around the auto industry a few years ago, in which the province used to say, “That is federal; that is none of our business,” I would put to members that it is a matter that should be of great concern to Ontario, that we should be active participants in the relocation of a new auto plant, that we should have something to say about which part of the province it goes into and that we should have something to say about the terms and conditions under which such agreements will be struck.

I would hazard a guess that at some point Ontario will be a player in some way. Perhaps it will not be in a direct way, such as financing, but at some point the government will be involved in how that plant is built, where it is built and in some related costs. It seems to me that if this is the case, then a ministry such as Intergovernmental Affairs should be a participant in this; it should not be an observer. It should have a handle on what our federal government is doing. It should have some understanding of what other provinces might do and it should also play some role in redirecting what might be just a straight, private business concern coming into Ontario and putting up a plant, but more likely will be private business coming in from Japan and getting some little sweeteners from the federal government to build an auto plant, assembly or parts or whatever, somewhere in Ontario.

It seems to me that would be a legitimate role. If it is legitimate, and I think it is, that we have an agent general in Paris observing what is happening in the French economy, the government ought to be equally concerned about what is happening in Ontario's economy and how the federal government is approaching that.

I want to point out a couple of other areas where I think this ministry could do some things and really has not done them. There is a lot of discussion across the country about labour-management relations, how industry functions and a whole series of issues concerned with the fact that our economy is in a bit of trouble and we are struggling to get out of it.

It concerns me somewhat that we have all these provincial governments working their own side of the street with not much in the way of liaison or discussion that would say: “This is a Canadian economy as well. What happens in Ontario has an effect on what happens in Quebec or in western Canada.” I suggest the ministry should give some consideration to participating in the development of a consensus, which I sense

is very urgent, whether it is through discussions, conferences or something a little more concrete.

The bishops have made a couple of statements on things they think have to be addressed by Canadian politicians and Canadians in general. The Macdonald royal commission has put out a really neat little piece of paper, but it does not go into very much of a concrete nature. We do have the Macdonald royal commission bouncing around the country at rather substantial cost, trying to look at the nation's economy and how the provinces would fit into that and what are the different components. This ministry could be a participant in that type of activity. This ministry should be concerned with the whole area of the effects of one level of government working on another.

I did want to talk a bit about one other thing. It was all the rage a year or so ago, but seems to have died out, except that this morning there popped on to my desk a political analysis newsletter published by the Council for Canadian Unity. Members may recall that for several years during the constitutional debates, for example, there was a lot of discussion about the country called Canada, how it should fit, who should have rights, and what should be in the Constitution and what should be out.

That whole debate has fallen silent in the last little while. The particular part I want to focus on is that it appears those of us who said the Senate ought to be reformed right out of business may still have some arguing to do, because there is in this latest newsletter more discussion about the reform of the Canadian Senate.

I noticed in last year's opening statement, or in one of the minister's speeches, that he went on at some length about his proposals for a reformed Senate, some change or new—what did he call it?—house of provinces.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Abolish it and start over.

Mr. Breagh: Abolish it and start over.

It does appear in here and in the first Macdonald report that there is at least an acknowledgement of a need to do something about the Senate. It is an institution very few Canadians have much faith in. It is a difficult mechanism to support when it turns out to be a retirement farm for older politicians. That is a good way to put them in there. If the current Prime Minister of Canada has a little trouble because he does not have anybody in his caucus who comes from the western part of the country, he appoints a couple of people to the Senate and makes them responsible for reporting in some

way to the Prime Minister's office or the Senate or whatever.

4:20 p.m.

That debate does not appear to be dead. There would appear to be certain elements who are continuing to investigate, to write newsletters and to instigate debates about a need to reform, change or do away with the Senate in Canada. I do not believe we really have had very much in the way of debate in this Legislature about that. Yet it points out what I said earlier, that there is almost a private parliament at work.

The private parliament consists of members such as the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, who every now and then trots off to a conference somewhere where his counterparts from other provinces sit around a big conference table, the Prime Minister of Canada makes an opening statement and great formal debates go on. I warrant that not much information changes hands there, but more likely there are private conferences outside the conference room where the real business of the conference occurs.

I am somewhat concerned that sooner or later one of these concepts about an elected Senate, an appointed Senate, a house of the provinces or some such animal is going to creep into Canadian politics that will be this year's substitution for the Senate. It is very likely liable to come into place without a great deal of discussion or consensus-building among the Canadian people and among those of us who are active in Canadian politics.

That may well be the deal that is struck somewhere at a federal-provincial conference. It may well be a deal that is put on the plate of the House of Commons on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. It may well come up with a totally distorted animal that no one really wants to deal with afterwards because it has been put together in a very private way.

On that kind of issue, or on an issue such as federal-provincial funding arrangements for health care, social services or whatever, there is not a great deal of formal, public debate that takes place. It seems to me that this ministry should be attempting to provide for the Legislature of Ontario more opportunities for that kind of debate to occur.

As I said earlier, I appreciate that the minister has on occasion put forward resolutions which allow us for an afternoon or for an hour or so to debate something that is not normally on our agenda. I propose that there is a need for him to give some consideration to providing more vehicles.

For example, one would normally say the estimates would be one vehicle. As I said at the beginning, this may be an unusual set of estimates, but there is not going to be an opportunity even for ordinary members to participate in them. That is not the fault of the minister; that fault belongs to the absent member for Ottawa East.

It would be a useful exercise for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and for this Legislature to have opportunities provided on a reasonably regular basis to participate in issues that are not normally before us, whether it is about the larger issues of funding proposals from the federal government to the province for various types of services, whether it is about constitutional rights, whether it is about native peoples or whether it is about some reform of the Senate, abolition of the Senate or the creation of a new house of some kind.

Those are all issues I am interested in as a member. I would like to know what is going on. I would like to be not just an observer; sometimes I would like to be a participant. Unfortunately, that does not happen.

I would like the minister seriously to explore in his own quiet way exactly what might be done to provide the members of this Legislature with a vehicle for discussion or to retrieve some knowledge.

There are publications from his ministry that provide us with samplings of newspaper articles so we can get a flavour of what is being written in newspapers we would not normally see. That is a concept that has been adopted in Quebec. They are a little hotter about it and they provide members of the National Assembly, I believe it is every couple of days, with an update of what is being said about Quebec issues in other parts of Canada. It keeps their members a little more up to date, or at least a little more aware that what Quebec does has an effect across the country. It seems to me the same would be true here. I think that would be a useful thing to do for members.

In my riding I have some native people but I do not have a reserve, so I do not often get hit with questions about matters having to do with how reserves are being run or problems related to that. Other members, such as the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) or the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), regularly have to deal with that.

It seems to me all the members in here would benefit somewhat by having a greater awareness of native rights, how those issues are being handled and what the process really is. I appreciated the opportunity to watch the last

conference, which opportunity I had simply because it was on television. Normally, I would not have had an opportunity to see that forum and to become more aware of that problem.

Whether the issue is French-language services or native rights, I think there is a need for the ministry to try to explore ways in which other members of the Legislature can be participants in that process, exercise their responsibility as members here in a more knowledgeable way and just kind of pick up on those issues.

I know there are some problems, but a little more participation might take away some of the restrictions. However, I think it would not be that difficult to have the minister identify certain areas where it would be possible to do that.

I am still awaiting his announcement. I understand there is a proposal to have the critics tour all the Ontario Houses around the world and visit all the agents general. This would accomplish my lifelong dream of being knowledgeable about the work done by the agents general around the world. It may not happen as part of our bicentennial celebrations; however, it is not a bad thought. It probably could be hidden in the budget very neatly.

There are a couple of other items that are part of this ministry's responsibility and that are a little difficult to understand. I want to bring up just one of them. I refer to the Malvern radioactive soil issue. I am always somewhat confused as to exactly how this issue got into this portfolio. However, it is there and it may have more to do with the fact that the minister also happens to be the member for that area.

I notice amounts are budgeted there, and I notice from continuing press reports that there is not much of a resolution to that problem yet. There have been lots of promises made and there are moneys set aside in the budget, but nothing of a very concrete nature has happened yet. I just want to earmark this, because it appears to be a pet project of the minister which has been put in his ministry. We will monitor it and see what is going on there, what promises have been made and what promises have not been kept.

The Deputy Chairman: I would just remind the honourable member there are two minutes left. There is one showing on the clock and one to clean it up.

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, thank you. I really appreciate that.

One other item I want to question the minister about is that in the estimates this year there appears to be a decline in the amount of money set aside for French-language services. This does

not quite jibe with the minister's opening statement in which there appeared to be some expansion of programs and opportunities.

I think I will give the minister the last minute and let him respond if he can. It should be on the record that if one reads the estimates material here, on the surface anyway, it would appear that Ontario is winding down that program slightly, or at least putting a halt to it. Yet the opening statement by the minister and statements by several other ministers would tend to lead one to believe they are going in the opposite direction.

The Deputy Chairman: The member has used up the time allocated for these estimates.

Votes 701 to 703, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs.

4:30 p.m.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Deputy Chairman: Does the honourable minister wish to give an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a very brief statement.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there copies for the other members?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I think they are being delivered right now.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there one for the Deputy Chairman as well?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to be able to present the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services for the 1984-1985 fiscal year. In fact, this opportunity is rather special for me as minister. Unlike most other ministries, whose activities focus primarily on directly serving the public of Ontario, my ministry has a dual obligation: We must do our best to serve the public, and we do that in a number of ways that make me proud; we must also do our best to serve our fellow ministries.

In a very real way my ministry must provide the parts from which the structures of government are built; it must provide the oil that makes the thousands of government functions run smoothly; and, above all, it must provide the support each man and woman in the government requires to carry out his or her job properly. This is a dual obligation I take very seriously; it is a role my employees take very seriously and, indeed, care about very deeply.

Over the past year we have seen clearly in a number of ways how the people of my ministry

carry out their traditional mandate to serve both the public and the government. We have seen and will continue to see examples of innovation and initiative that will enable them to serve their clients even better in the future. I might add that I in no way see initiative and innovation as contrary to our need to be fully accountable to the people we serve, the taxpayers of Ontario.

As the Premier (Mr. Davis) recently noted here in this chamber, this government processes more than 29,000 transactions each day. That is more than seven million per year. He could have added that a high percentage of these are processed by my ministry. From cheque production to the awarding of construction contracts, from the obtaining of supplies to contractual agreements for property repairs, operations and maintenance, it is the Ministry of Government Services' processing of the day-to-day business that keeps this government running.

I do not need to remind members that a great fuss was made some months ago about whether all the government's own instructions had been observed. There were a few instances where not all the steps in the process were followed as they should have been. Management practice is very important in this government and in my ministry, and I want to stress my view of the vital nature of properly accounting for the wise disbursement of public funds.

This government is engaged in a study and review of management practices to ensure that current practice keeps up to the demands of these changing times. We must, and indeed will, remain firm in our unshakeable value of being good stewards of the responsibilities we carry out. We must also live in today's world of microcomputers and scarce resources.

What this means simply in day-to-day terms is quietly getting the job done. That is why I also want to speak to members about some of the less celebrated actions of my ministry. I want to leave them in no doubt that the Ministry of Government Services is a progressive, responsible and active ministry. The job we do is essential and effective as well as cost-efficient. I also want to leave them in no doubt that we are moving ahead to provide better service both to our client ministries and ultimately to the people and the public who are masters of us all.

A reorganization of the ministry was completed last year. We are now in a position to make the best use of our human resources, new technological equipment, up-to-date financial and administrative planning and management. We are also in a good position to make better use

of the property we manage on the government's behalf.

The ministry is made up of six divisions: human resource services, property development, property management, corporate services, computer and telecommunications services and finance and administrative services. We divide our functions into two program groups: accommodation and services. In earlier times, and even now in the federal jurisdiction, these have been separate organizations, namely, public works and supply and services.

Work on those two areas is carried out by a total of 2,775 employees. In the fiscal year 1984-85 those employees will administer a total net budget of \$384 million, about three quarters of which will be spent on accommodation for the various ministries of government.

It is important to note with respect to our total staffing requirements and work load that we manage a gross budget of some \$861 million. The range of activity is really quite extraordinary. As members know, Government Services has been my area of responsibility for only about 10 months, and in that time I have been impressed with the scope of what is carried out.

This ministry serves as a post office, as a telephone service and as the main information gatherer and dispenser of the Ontario government. In fact, my ministry operates the second largest mail service in the nation, and I must say it is probably better than the largest. We handle about 70 million outgoing pieces and 20 million incoming pieces of mail a year.

Our bookstore at 880 Bay Street serves about 150,000 customers a year, and our publication services responded to more than 120,000 mail order requests last year. The Queen's Park switchboard, which is part of our telephone and telecommunications network, took more than five million calls last year.

My ministry manages on behalf of the taxpayers about one half of the total property owned by the province. We have an inventory of approximately 9,300 buildings containing more than 4.3 million square metres—which for us old people is 47 million square feet—of floor space in about 3,500 locations.

I am happy to be able to report that through our accommodation activities we will create an estimated 6,000 private sector jobs in our capital replacement and refurbishment alterations and repair activities in this fiscal year. We will provide those jobs in construction and renovation work through expenditures of some \$77.3 million across the province.

Last year, through programs funded by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, we were able to create 292 jobs through \$5 million in capital construction and repair projects. We stand ready to take on whatever initiatives are possible this year.

My ministry has a net budget of \$263 million and a gross budget of \$278.7 million for all accommodation activities this fiscal year. Of the total gross amount, \$93.4 million will be spent on the leasing of space. Frankly, I would like to see that expenditure reduced. In order to achieve this, I would also like to see a major reduction in the amount of space we lease.

In recent years, the impact of leasing has become more significant as interest rates and leasing rates have escalated. Our response has been twofold. On the one hand, we have been limiting increases in the amount of new space we lease; on the other hand, we have been moving forward with a series of actions known collectively as MetroPlan.

MetroPlan, in brief, is a strategy for using our real estate accommodation resources in Metropolitan Toronto in the most efficient manner. The short-term action of MetroPlan was developed to take advantage of economic office space vacated by the Ministry of Revenue's relocation to Oshawa and relocation of the Ontario health insurance plan offices to Kingston.

The net effect of our plans will be the termination of more than 30,000 square metres—approximately 329,000 square feet—of leased office space.

About 92 per cent of the short-term action has been completed. Savings over the long term in reduced office space cost will be substantial. When the short-term phase of MetroPlan is fully implemented by this summer, we will have reduced office space by 12 per cent for those offices affected by the plan.

One of the major moves made during the short-term phase of MetroPlan has been that of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing from a collection of six offices throughout downtown Toronto to the College Park complex at 777 Bay Street.

My ministry found the cost of the space at College Park to be cost-effective compared with other existing leased space. Moreover, this move allowed us to relocate operations of other ministries to achieve further consolidation, further reductions of space and further lease terminations.

Municipal Affairs and Housing was able to reduce its space by 15 per cent in its new location

without a decline in the quality of its services. Indeed, consolidation from six locations to a single building has been very beneficial.

Successful actions such as the short-term phase of MetroPlan represent a change in philosophy on the part of the government in the way we use the substantial assets we have in property. This new philosophy is guiding new program activities throughout the province, not only in Metro. I think this change in philosophy and programs will allow us to live within constraints while continuing to provide for the legitimate needs of government in all parts of Ontario.

The philosophy arises from the realization that we must look more carefully at the use we make of accommodation and of our properties. To do that, my ministry is proposing three new initiatives.

4:40 p.m.

The first is a planning process that consists of a series of surveys that will be conducted in major municipalities across the province. The studies will document existing property owned and leased by the government so we can identify opportunities for managing our real estate resources to greater advantage. These studies will also give us the information we need to develop strategic plans and to take action before situations in any area become critical.

As a second initiative, and in co-operation with other ministries, we may be able to reduce somewhat our large land holdings. In so doing we may be able to develop a cash flow to facilitate other essential activities through the judicious disposal of selected government-owned lands.

A third initiative centres on improving the management of government buildings. This will mean working with other ministries to save energy, reduce maintenance costs and find ways to scale down operating budgets while retaining proper working environments for government staff.

I am especially proud of the significant leadership and achievements shown by my ministry in the areas of energy conservation and energy cost reduction. Over the past seven years we have worked with client ministries to reduce energy consumption in government buildings by a whopping 25 per cent. This has resulted in cost reductions of some \$38 million to the end of the last fiscal year. We can expect to continue our excellent record this year.

We have been able to accomplish these economies through new building design, energy-

efficient retrofitting of existing buildings and co-operative programs with the Ministry of Energy in educating our employees about conservation practices.

Our primary goal is service. I believe our record in providing accommodation for the government illustrates a high standard of service delivery, both on the part of my ministry and on the part of the private sector.

In the past fiscal year, we have provided and improved the accommodation for various ministries through projects ranging from a students' residence to drill core storage libraries for the mining and exploration industry. Within this period, 16 major capital projects were completed, eight at costs below their original estimates; three were completed at the estimated cost, and the five remaining projects were completed at costs only slightly above those originally estimated.

We have 14 major capital projects under construction at this time with a total estimated value of some \$67.8 million. Nine of them have a completion date within this fiscal year. Work is about to begin on the final phase of the Ottawa courthouse and registry office. This complex will be built and furnished for an estimated cost of about \$47 million. Its opening is scheduled for 1986.

All of our construction work is carried out by the private sector. I have great personal faith and confidence in the ability of our private contractors and developers to do the job right, on time and according to estimates in the vast majority of cases.

In addition, we contract with the private sector for the repair, operation and maintenance of public buildings. In this fiscal year, more than \$50 million will be spent for these services.

My ministry believes, as does the government as a whole, in maintaining a strong private sector and in the privatization of functions that can be performed more efficiently and effectively by the private sector.

To further strengthen private sector opportunities, we are taking initiatives to better inform Ontario business people how they might sell their goods and services to government. To that end, we take part in trade shows, mount exhibits and explore new and improved ways of communicating with the business community.

As members know, one of the long-standing purchasing policies of my ministry and of the government has been to buy Canadian. Our application of a 10 per cent made-in-Canada products price preference ensures that Canadian

businesses receive the maximum benefits from the expenditure of public funds in the private sector.

All of the 1,100 items stocked by our office products service are purchased in Canada, and 95 per cent of them are manufactured in this country. We are discussing with interested business groups the production in Canada of the most heavily used office products required by government.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell members of some of our other initiatives in the area of corporate services. One of these involves the collective purchasing program. This is a one-window program which establishes contractual arrangements between the government and suppliers for products commonly used across the government. Economies of scale generated by this program saved the taxpayers about \$11 million last year alone.

We have taken steps to introduce collective purchasing in other ministries. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, for example, is using collective purchasing to obtain vehicle fuel and accessories.

I am certain the bargain hunters of the public will be interested and happy to know about another initiative of my ministry. In June we are establishing a cash-and-carry outlet in Metro Toronto for the public sale of surplus items the government no longer requires.

We have placed a priority on expanded access to the government for both the private sector and for the average citizen. At the same time the business person is finding it easier to find his or her way through the government bureaucracy, the man or woman on the street is finding government more accessible and easier to understand.

For instance, in Ottawa we have opened our Access Ontario Information Centre. We are very proud of this storefront information and inquiry facility. Generally, it offers assistance to citizens requiring information about Ontario government programs and services. It has a fully bilingual staff to deal with the public on a personal and friendly basis.

It also has comprehensive technical facilities allowing immediate communication with other ministries and departments that can deal best with inquiries. With this centre we have improved our visibility in the national capital while improving service. Since its opening in December, more than 16,000 people have visited the centre. We expect more than 60,000 visitors

during this fiscal year. We can say the trillium is now in the shadow of the Peace Tower.

An interest has been expressed in our expenditures on advertising and communications services. Here is what we spent money on advertising for in my ministry. Publicly advertised tenders for capital construction, accommodation alterations and repairs projects; advertising and listings in telephone directories to enable citizens to find their way around government better; exhibits and graphics to explain to Ontario businesses how to sell products and services to the Ontario government; and recruitment advertising in publications such as Jobmart.

All in all, my ministry has spent well under \$1 million in total on these items during each of the past two fiscal years and three quarters of it was on tender advertising. I think we can agree that the government has an obligation to provide such information to the people of Ontario and that it is a most legitimate, modest expense.

On a related area, questions regarding the number of employees on staff who are responsible for communications with the public and the press are as perennial and as predictable as spring flowers. I must say that here too I offer absolutely no apology. In the 1982-83 fiscal year there were four people in my ministry with this responsibility. Five years earlier, there were three. I believe that in communications our responsibilities are the same as they are in other activities: to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. An open government has an obligation to make these programs and services public knowledge.

In our efforts to reduce costs and increase productivity, no area is more important to our government than our computer and telecommunications services division. The computer services area of the division continues to deliver effective and efficient services to its clients while recovering all costs on a competitive charging basis. The cost performance improvement in delivering computer services has improved over the years in such a way that if the cost of a unit of processing in 1974 was \$1, that same unit today would cost 72 cents.

Technology is continuing to advance dramatically, producing new, tightly packaged and powerful microcomputing resources. Computing technology has moved the specialized world of the computer centre to within easy reach of the office worker.

During last year we introduced the first distributed development facility in Oshawa on a pilot basis. The service provides the client

ministry with the benefits of local online computing resources to enhance the productivity of its systems development staff. Following the first several months of operation, the initial evaluation of this service indicates both direct cost savings and significant productivity gains. We look to offering similar services during 1984-85 to other client ministries having appropriate work loads.

With respect to telecommunications, during the past several months we have installed major telephone electronic-switching systems in Toronto for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in Oshawa for the Ministry of Revenue, and in Kingston for several Kingston-based ministries. Work is planned this year to replace some of our Hamilton systems with more cost-effective services.

4:50 p.m.

Improvement in our telecommunications service in the northern regions of the province has been a major goal of our ministry. Funds have been allocated that would see improvement in that northern telephone service. While on the subject of intercity telephone lines, I might point out that this service saved the government some \$9 million last year alone. I am sure the members of this House are aware of the many improvements we have made to intercity lines right across this province.

The ministry also has a data network initiative under way that will make our computer systems more accessible to all users.

Those are but a few of the opportunities that have been developed to improve service.

My ministry has recently installed and expanded an audio teleconferencing capability that will bring groups together via the telephone. Now, up to 17 locations outside Metropolitan Toronto using the intercity network lines can share the service. This will not only save us long-distance charges, but it will also offer the opportunity for government employees to conduct their business in a more rapid and productive manner.

Video teleconferencing is another initiative my ministry has taken to offer a more streamlined and effective method of communication throughout government. To date, we have established video centres in Toronto, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Oshawa. The system employs all the benefits of the audio conference with the added bonus of face-to-face dialogue, resulting in considerable savings in government travel and accommodation costs.

I am certain the future will also include such services as government-wide electronic mail and many service delivery improvements based on computer technology. Service delivery depends on the effective collection and sharing of information. If we do not know what is happening, we cannot be of service.

Recent technological advances have provided us with golden opportunities to create, store and disseminate information, but they also provide us with challenges. To be useful, the information we generate must be readily available and, above all, understandable to the public and to the ministries we serve. To meet the challenge, we are developing a range of easily accessible and comprehensive information programs.

My ministry has traditionally maintained basic government-wide data bases such as our integrated payroll, personnel and employee benefits system, which is now being upgraded to include corporate human resource information. The new data will provide a much improved base for government-wide career planning.

In the area of service, my ministry has been given the lead responsibility for the customer service program. This includes co-ordinating the government's activities, the development of integrated information services and the delivery of service to the public.

In fulfilling this mandate, we have been consulting with our sister ministries, primarily through their customer service co-ordinators, to develop the program's direction. This direction focuses on employee attitudes and on providing effective training to shape those attitudes. We have also centred on developing assessment systems to help us to determine appropriate service levels and to measure the program's success.

We have used the consultative process in working towards our objectives. As a result, the foundations for joint customer service projects have begun. These include a corporate training and orientation film on customer service and a list of the best service initiatives of each ministry that can be adapted by other ministries.

Within my ministry, we are initiating a series of service improvement pilot projects. Some of these are joint projects with other agencies. For example, we are developing a resource package for an inquiry bureau in our sister ministries. We have a full-time customer service co-ordinator and have established a service improvement team. Together, they have developed our pilot projects, reviewed them with the government's

customer service co-ordinators and are in the process of implementing them.

By its very nature, the presentation of a ministry's estimates for a fiscal year requires a recitation of facts and figures. However, I would like to turn for a moment to several areas in which the facts and figures take a back seat to very human concerns. I take some pride in discussing these areas because I think we are making considerable strides to improve the lives of people both in and out of government.

For example, women account for 33.8 per cent of all employees in the Ministry of Government Services. This is a ministry with a large proportion of nontraditional jobs for women, from trades to architecture and from engineering to technology. In our last fiscal year, 38 positions in these underrepresented classes were filled by women. That was a 153 per cent increase over the year before. In addition, 27 women were hired into management positions last year in comparison with 18 the year before, a 50 per cent increase.

Our affirmative action program provides educational assistance, job rotation, career development workshops and help in such things as the preparation of résumés and interviews. It is a program that is working.

To improve access and remove obstacles to free movement in government buildings by disabled persons, my ministry has established an office of barrier-free design. That office is headed by a senior designer who is himself a paraplegic. The office provides a one-window service to other ministries and to the disabled by offering technical advice, information on new developments in this field, a review of plans and other services.

All our new facilities have access provided for the disabled, and we are adapting existing buildings by installing ramps, special features in the washrooms, lower telephones and other provisions. It is programs such as these that give me particular pleasure to be Minister of Government Services.

In the spirit of not consuming too much time I have been able to give only brief highlights of our programs. Behind these highlights, as members indeed know, are thousands of details, hundreds of decisions and the work of almost 3,000 dedicated, hardworking servants of the public.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the committee for their attention.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the minister to these, his first estimates as Minister of Govern-

ment Services. A great deal has happened since we met last May, including major changes in the ministry's senior staff.

The events that led to these changes are of great concern to both my colleagues and me. I am speaking of the letting of contracts by the former deputy minister without the approval of either the former minister or the Management Board of Cabinet. I would like to review these events briefly now because they raise some questions which I hope the minister will have time to address.

At the minister's request the Provincial Auditor reviewed the ministry's actions in the letting of contracts for consulting services with Allan W. Foster and Associates Ltd., and in the development of the online telephone data base, Telepac, for the publication of the 1983 summer telephone directory. The auditor's findings were disturbing in both of these cases.

As the minister knows, in January 1982 his ministry conducted an internal study on the proposed computerized information system. In May of that year, Allan W. Foster and Associates was invited to submit a proposal on the manpower development system. This proposal was approved by the former deputy minister in June 1982.

The original contract given to Allan W. Foster and Associates was under \$15,000 and was therefore not subject to Management Board approval. The intention of the ministry was to hire a human resources planning and development co-ordinator to complete the project when the consultant finalized the initial phase in August 1982.

Although the ministry did hire a co-ordinator on September 15, 1982, Allan W. Foster and Associates was re-engaged by the ministry eight more times until March 10, 1983. The total payments to the consultant amounted to \$81,300—well over the limit that excludes a contract from Management Board approval. However, this amount was broken down into 10 purchase orders of under \$15,000 each.

It should be noted that the purchase of the computer equipment for the project, which was also arranged through the consultant, added \$8,400 to the bill, bringing the total project cost to approximately \$90,000.

The ministry maintained at the time that the multiple contracts were entered into for purposes of control and not with any intent to circumvent the requirements of the Manual of Administration. I am sure the minister is aware of that document. The Provincial Auditor in his report

concluded that if the ministry were sincere in this contention, Management Board should have been advised or warned.

5 p.m.

The second case that concerns me is the development of the online telephone data base, Telepac, and the publication of the summer of 1983 telephone directory. As the minister knows, his ministry prepared three reports on this matter for Management Board between February and December 1982. Management Board deferred a decision on the first report, and the ministry withdrew the second and third reports itself.

The auditor concluded, "It is evident these last two submissions were withdrawn because the Ministry of Government Services was aware that the proposals were not acceptable to Management Board secretariat and, if submitted, would not have been recommended to Management Board for approval." Despite the fact that Management Board had not approved the project and that no feasibility study had been performed, the ministry proceeded with the development of the Telepac project. This entire project was against the Manual of Administration.

The third and final case I would like to mention, and the Provincial Auditor did not report on it, is the \$50,000-food consulting contract given to Joe Dineley, a name that very often cropped up in the Legislature in 1982. This contract was not tendered nor did it have Management Board approval. Previously, the ministry had hired a part-time food consultant for about \$12,000. In 1982 the job was sent to tender, and at least six proposals were received. However, the former deputy minister cancelled the tender, upgraded the job and gave it to Mr. Dineley. Both the former minister and a senior ministry official refused to sign the contract, but Mr. Dineley received it anyway.

The outcome of these and other cases was the dismissal of the former minister from cabinet and, six months later, the resignation of the former deputy minister. I regret that this happened to the former minister, that the course taken by the government was to dismiss and remove him from the cabinet.

In all the proposals put forward by the government on government restraint, he is one member who really took them to heart, took them seriously enough to say something had to be done in this area. When he did try to bring about justice on the faults within his ministry, he was dismissed. That is regrettable. In his opening statement the minister talks about the Ministry of

Government Services being progressive, I think the former minister was progressive and understood what the word "progressive" meant, to be conservative and not have government waste such as has continued within that ministry over the years.

The Dineley case followed the same routine used year after year when the government awarded tenders, if one could call them tenders, to the public. I question that. The deputy minister resigned only after heavy pressure from the public and the opposition, and he was promised a new job by the Premier. No such promises were made to the former minister, who was only doing his job in trying to keep his ministry accountable. This is what happens when a minister shows concern about public spending and feels he must be accountable. When he wants within his ministry to be accountable for government expenditure, he is given the axe.

I hope the present minister, when his accountability comes forward, perhaps within a year, is going to be accountable for the taxpayers' money and that he is not going to get the axe or the guillotine. It is the guillotine the second time around, so the minister better be careful in this area.

There are a number of questions arising from this whole problem and I hope the minister will find time to answer them. What has been done about the contractors who were involved in these cases? Are they still engaged by the ministry? I refer specifically to the Dineley contract. Has the ministry reviewed or changed its contracts procedures? What steps have been taken to ensure that fiascos such as these will not occur in the future? Finally, has the minister instituted any policies that deal with disciplining senior civil servants who step out of line, as I feel the former deputy did?

I would like to remind the minister of the purpose of his ministry, a purpose his predecessor understood. The purpose of his ministry is service. This ministry was founded and built upon the need to provide service to the people of Ontario. I feel that instances such as the contracts I have mentioned do not serve the public, and I would like some assurance that such instances will not occur again, at least not while the present minister holds his office.

In his opening statement last year, the former minister discussed some issues that I would like to see mentioned again this year. Most important of these are job creation and fiscal restraint. His ministry is in a very powerful position with respect to both of these concerns through

contracts to maintain and build government office space and in a host of other areas. The Ministry of Government Services controls a large number of private sector jobs. It can stimulate employment by increasing its capital works for a year or stifle employment by cutting back.

At last year's estimates the former minister told of the ministry's involvement in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. He hoped that over the last year some \$50 million from BILD would be used for job creation. He also mentioned job creation initiatives that were to be realized through the Canada-Ontario employment development program. Some \$1.3 million was to go to job creation.

As well, an estimated \$87 million was to be spent on contracts in the private sector to design, operate and maintain government buildings across Ontario. By privatizing ministry services in this way, more private sector jobs were to be created. I noticed that the minister said he is going to create up to 6,000 new jobs in this particular area, and I congratulate him on that.

I hope the minister plans to use his power again this year to increase employment opportunities in our province. I am a bit concerned, however. I note in his estimates for accommodation programs that areas which would most likely stimulate employment are actually being cut back. His ministry plans to spend less in the areas of capital construction, replacement, accommodation and alterations.

Spending in these areas is most likely to create jobs. I am concerned that not as much employment will be generated by the ministry this year as last. As the unemployment figures testify, new jobs are just as needed now as they have been in the past.

Of course, I understand these cutbacks in the context of fiscal restraint. Last year the former minister promised to save the people of Ontario \$60 million in the next decade through the reorganization of office space in Metro Toronto. I understand the minister made some comments in his opening remarks in this area, which has not been completed as yet.

I applaud his ministry's efforts to save the taxpayers money. I am pleased to see that, overall, he is asking for only a three per cent budget increase this year. However, there are some questions I would like to ask the minister.

First, will his reorganization of office space, which is ongoing at present, be spread across the province and not just in Metro Toronto? Second, in what other areas is he planning to save money?

Finally, and most important, I would like the minister to guarantee that at no time will service to the public suffer as a result of these cutbacks. I fully support fiscal restraint, but I am concerned that our mandate to serve the people as a government not suffer in the bid to save money.

Last year the former minister made note of the progress made for women in his ministry. I would like to address this issue again because, as the minister knows, the position of women in our society is of great concern to my party.

The number of women employed by the Ministry of Government Services has steadily increased over the last few years by one percentage point a year. This increase, while it is not large, is consistent with the trends in other ministries and shows that Government Services is committed to the cause of women, at least to some degree.

5:10 p.m.

However, this ministry still employs very few women. Only 33 per cent of its employees are female in comparison to 70.4 per cent in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs or 64.6 per cent in the Ministry of Health. While I know that most of what the ministry deals with falls under the guise of traditional male occupations, in this day of mechanization and computerization there is really no reason women cannot be hired to do more jobs which were once closed to them because of the type of work involved.

I notice in reports from the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario that more women are graduating in this particular field and more are entering the universities. I am very pleased to see that women in the Ministry of Government Services, few as they may be, are faced with a significantly smaller wage gap than their co-workers in other ministries.

Women in the Ministry of Government Services earn 76.4 per cent of what men do overall, compared to 56.4 per cent in the Ministry of Energy. These figures are even above the government average of 75.8 per cent. Therefore, I would have to congratulate the minister or his predecessor in moving in this direction.

I know the minister made some comments on this particular area in his opening remarks. He deals with small numbers, but when one deals with percentages, one can move to 154 per cent and it looks really good when the percentage figure is used. However, when the numbers are looked at, they are still small.

However, the fight for equality is far from ended. Despite these present figures, I must point out that while women in the Ministry of

Government Services earn, on average, about the same as women in other ministries, men earn considerably less. For example, women in Government Services earn, on average, \$19,534, while women in Energy earn \$21,805. Men employed in Government Services earn \$25,568, while men employed in Energy earn \$38,692. I guess there would not be too much left for Suncor, would there, if we started spending money in this particular area?

We must guard against complacency, for women in the Ministry of Government Services really are not doing better overall; the men are doing worse. This decreases the wage gap but for the wrong reasons. One further thing about the positions of women in the Ministry of Government Services disturbs me. As a result of the affirmative action program, all government ministries have instituted accelerated career development initiatives.

I am concerned because, according to the last Ontario Status of Women Council crown employees report, only 5.1 per cent of the women employed by the government are involved in these initiatives. The Ministry of Government Services is slightly better off with 8.5 per cent of female employees involved in this program, up two per cent from the previous year. Again, this figure is close to that of the majority of other ministries. However, it would be really encouraging to see the percentage of the female Government Services employees involved in career development initiatives increased to that of the Management Board of Cabinet, which is 69.6 per cent.

One has to start somewhere in improving the lot of this half of our population. Why not in a ministry which exists to serve us all?

I was pleased to learn last week that the government had decided not to hire a Queen's Own Rifles guard this summer because the regiment refuses to hire women for this. Yet we do have women in the armed forces in the present day and they are doing an excellent job. Quite frankly, I must admit I do not understand their argument of historical accuracy.

While there were no women in the Canadian army in 1860, there were few, if any, blacks, orientals, Indians and natives, east Europeans and a host of other ethnic groups. The descendants of these groups would not be excluded today, I am sure. I cannot see the Queen's Own Rifles telling a young man, "I am sorry, we cannot hire you because there were no Russians"—or whatever one wants to say—"with us in 1860."

In fact, were any of the other minorities to be excluded, there would be trouble. Yet this argument is used to exclude women. I think if the Queen's Own Rifles refuses to enter 1984 and leave 1860 behind, at least where women are concerned, then the government's plan of hiring 30 tour guides of both sexes is much better. Perhaps as a suggestion for next year, we could consider either asking another regiment to guard the Legislature or forming a special force of our own. This would create employment, would it not?

Mr. Boudria: Get into the 20th century.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We are already in the 21st century. You are behind as usual.

Mr. Haggerty: The guard is part of our summer heritage and it would be a shame to let it disappear entirely over this issue.

As we are all aware, this is a special year for Ontario. The Queen and the Pope will both be visiting our province. It is our bicentennial, a very important event for any territory. This ministry plays an important part in these events. We have all seen the flagpoles lining the front walk of the Legislature. I am curious about one thing. Last year, at the instigation of my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), the steps to the front walk were replaced by a ramp. Last week I noticed the ramp had been replaced by a flower garden. I am just a little curious about what is happening to our front walk.

Nevertheless, some areas of the building and grounds are looking as good as they can look in early spring. I will get into that in more detail later on. If the ministry is as diligent in the rest of the province, I am sure our public offices will do us proud in this special year.

I would again like to welcome the minister to his new post and to tell him I am looking forward to working with him in the future.

The other point I want to bring to the minister's attention is that in Orders and Notices in the early part of the session there were about seven questions I directed to the ministry. I understood the government House leader to say these questions would be answered during the estimates. Will the minister provide the answers to those seven questions?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Some of them were in my statement.

Mr. Haggerty: If they were, they were very vague because the answers are not directed to the questions that were raised. We may have to

spend a little more time in this area. I hope the minister and his staff will have the answers then.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I would like to join with my other colleagues in congratulating and welcoming the minister to his new portfolio and also the other higher echelon staff in this ministry.

I would be remiss if I did not say how much we miss the previous minister. Whatever disagreements we may have had with some of his policies, and we may have felt that at times he did not answer our questions in as much detail as we wished, one certainly has to say that of all the members in this House, the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) has shown a certain amount of courage, guts one might call it, and a certain commitment to bringing forward things he felt were wrong, unjust and misusing the taxpayers' money, and to following them through to what he considered to be logical conclusions. Perhaps he suffered as a result of that, as other members have occasionally, in bringing forward things they strongly believed were in the common good and public interest.

The previous minister was a man I always felt I could go to with any problem and in his own—perhaps “quiet” is the wrong word after the last few days—quiet way at that time he would personally see to it that things were done. I think that should go on the record as my view of a man for whom I have had the greatest admiration over the years.

[Applause]

Mr. Philip: I see the Liberal Party is applauding and showing it has similar sentiments about the member for Lanark.

The previous speaker has dealt in some detail with the problems of contracting out. I still have concerns about some of the statements the minister has made, because they are vague enough that he has simply put them there as a way of providing a teaser so we would ask more questions and he could elaborate.

I have said on a number of occasions that I recognize the buck really stops with the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet. In my opinion, it is he who is most responsible for seeing or not seeing that the Manual of Administration is carried out.

At the same time, we have had instances directly related to this ministry, and I would like to see more specifics as to exactly what is being done to ensure the Manual of Administration is being carried out.

5:20 p.m.

We have certain comments in the minister's opening statement which I want to deal with a little later and ask him to elaborate on. He mentions “a study and review of management practices to ensure that current practice keeps up to the demands of these changing times.” I assume that is the study that has been contracted out by Management Board. Is that the study or is there an internal study? The minister is nodding his head.

Since this ministry deals with a great number of contracts in the year, I would like to know specifically what input it has had in that study? When does the minister feel that study might be available? Have any changes taken place already as a result of some preparations this ministry may have had to make as part of its input in that study?

I was also concerned about certain contracts. I raised this issue last year with the then minister and did not receive much in the way of a concrete answer. Notwithstanding the need to adhere to the Manual of Administration, are there other considerations the ministry uses in allocating a contract? We recently had the whole problem about the contracting of the boats. I am less concerned whether it went to a company for \$300 more or less; that is not the issue.

What I found, which was an interesting issue, was a statement by the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) that somehow distance was a factor in deciding which person would receive the contract. If that is the case, it means the contractors bidding for government services—in this case it was the Ministry of the Solicitor General, but there could be a case with this ministry—are at a disadvantage if they are not somehow close to Kingston, where there are a good many offices, or close to the triangle in this area. I would like to know whether there are considerations of distances when awarding a contract.

I would also like to know whether consideration is given in awarding contracts as to whether the company has good labour practices and is unionized. That has been a major issue in British Columbia, where the government has said point blank: “We do not care. We will be part of a union-busting system and we are quite prepared to see that stated as government policy.”

That has never been stated by this government, but we have a problem with the federal government. I have pointed this out publicly, as have my colleagues in the House of Commons, in regard to security services at the airport. We know that the people who are involved in security systems are some of the worst paid of any of the

people who are serving the public in either federal or provincial ministries.

In the case of airport security we have an obvious attempt by the people at Burns to organize a union. There is no provision under the federal government's contracting out that it will hire union companies or give priority or a weighting to union companies so Burns can say: "Fine. We will lose the contract this year because we will overbid and some nonunion contractor will come in and pull out the union. Then we will reorganize and put in a bid next year because it is worth our while to lose a government contract for a year to a competitor in order not to be unionized."

This is a problem we have to look at in the light of what is contained in the Manual of Administration, so the ministry will not open itself to criticism that it is somehow violating the manual and not taking the lowest bid. At the same time we must deal with the not purely monetary criteria that may be used and spell those out when contracts are being let.

There have been governments in the United States which have not provided contracts to companies found to be guilty of discriminating against women or various visible minority groups under various labour acts and labour regulations.

While this ministry has moved ahead over the years—I know it went running and struggling at the time we asked for a ramp for the handicapped at the front, so people who are handicapped could enter this building by the front and not by a back door—by boasting about how it has implemented access for the disabled to many public buildings, some serious look has to be taken at how contracts are awarded and how the contracting system may have to be used as a way of eliminating or reducing discrimination in the private sector.

I would like to deal with another question in the area of contracting out. Many employees—and I ran into a gentleman the other night—have been on contract to this government for years. This is a way in which the government is able to save on certain benefits, but there is a tremendous insecurity in that.

I sat down with a woman on Saturday evening at a wedding. She said to me: "You know I am at the Ministry of Health today under contract and I do not know whether I will be there next week. I am not even told how long the contract is likely to last. I may well be at another ministry on another contract next week, but I really do not have any certainty. It is not so much I am worried about the

money. It is not so much I am even worried that they are probably ripping me off by not paying the benefits I would be entitled to as a public servant. It is not that I feel I am not going to get a good evaluation, because I have had an excellent evaluation from every ministry I have ended up working for. It is just that constant uncertainty of not knowing what my status is."

I would be interested in knowing if this ministry has a breakdown of whether there is an increase in the amount of contracting out, where that contracting out is being used, the length of time for which people are being hired under contract, where contracts are extended or where new contracts are constantly being rewritten. Is it just the exception I am running into where they say, "I have been on contract time and again for four or five years"? Are those just the exceptions, or is this an ongoing government policy with more public employees being on contract rather than hired and given the full status that public service should warrant?

I would like to deal with a few of the issues the minister has raised, and then I would like to deal very specifically with some individual items under the individual votes.

5:30 p.m.

In the awarding of contracts for such things as furniture and office space, what are the criteria the ministry sets in deciding the quality it is going to aim for? I received a letter the other day from a woman who said she walked into the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and for the quality of furniture in that office, it must have cost a fortune.

I pulled the appropriate section in the Manual of Administration. I am sure the ministry has probably followed the manual, and I am sure there is probably nothing in violation in that case. She was not saying there was anything wrong in how the contracts were awarded. She was just asking: "Is it necessary that these people have such a high quality of furniture? Why does this ministry have to go top drawer while at the same time there are over 18,000 people on the waiting list for geared-to-income housing?" That creates a problem. We have had the same problem over the years, of course, with complaints about the Ombudsman's office.

I would be interested in whether the government has any policy. How do they decide that the Ministry of Energy and its offices go first class, while the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is in that gosh-awful-looking building with long, narrow corridors and desks that look as though they were going to fall apart the

day after tomorrow? Why is it that one ministry goes upper drawer while the other ministry, which may be of equal importance, seems to get the lower level? Why is it that the Ministry of Energy has such luxurious office spaces, and how do they decide when they are going to go for that kind of space for one ministry as opposed to another ministry?

I was fascinated by some of the things that were said the other day with respect to the relocation to Kingston and by the problem—and I am still not sure of the answer to this—of whether there are actual cost savings, and how much these actual cost savings are, in the rental of space in areas like Kingston and in the removal from downtown Toronto. It would be useful to have actual dollar amounts on that.

The point I made on this to one of the top public servants was that there are probably additional cost savings in being able to remove from the centre of a high-cost area what amounts to competition with yourself for office space. I do not know how to measure that, but it would be interesting if we could have some kind of study on it.

The Kingston move may well make sense, not just in the actual dollars the ministry thinks it is saving and can show with respect to X dollars per foot of office space but also in what effect, if any, this may have on the market and on the competition of the various ministries for office space in the area from which it has just removed so many thousands of feet out of that competitive market.

The ministry's answer at that time was that it has no way of evaluating it other than what the real estate people seem to think is happening. However, it seems as though there may be additional cost savings the ministry has never even tried to take credit for that perhaps it should be looking at, and it would be interesting to find out.

I would be interested to know whether the ministry has any further figures or any results of studies on the problems of displacement when a group of public servants is moved from one area to another. We still have complaints about the Kingston move from people who simply say they could not go. If the ministry is planning further relocations—and I think it has been able to justify many of its relocations—we should at least look at what the human costs are and how many public servants have had to be relocated and how many are actually relocated in the private sector or in other ministries after that kind of change. We have not really had a personnel study that would

guide us in future moves the ministry may want to contemplate.

The minister says on page 8 of his opening statement, "About 92 per cent of the short-term action has been completed." He is talking about MetroPlan. "The savings over the long term in reduced office space costs will be substantial." Again, we are left with the question of how much the projections are. He goes on to say, "When the short-term phase of MetroPlan is fully implemented, by this summer, we will have reduced office space by 12 per cent for those offices affected by the plan."

On page 12 of his statement, he talks about significant plans for conserving energy. He says, "We have been able to accomplish these economies through new building design, energy-efficient retrofitting of existing buildings and co-operative programs with the Ministry of Energy in educating our employees about conservation practices."

It would be interesting to find out the breakdown. Exactly what are the cost benefits in each of these? Where is the ministry getting the most bang for its buck? What are the projections into the future as to where it will go from here with that program? It seems that kind of study might be justified. The minister may want to try to obtain some answers.

In his opening statement, the minister also talks about his advertising program. This is the first time in a long time that I have seen the ministry actually try to give us a breakdown on that. It would be useful to have a dollar breakdown on each of these areas. It would also be very interesting, because we have not been able to obtain them in the standing committee on public accounts, to obtain the specific objectives of the programs and the evaluation system that has been used to determine whether there was value for money in these advertising programs.

If ever there was a program in the government that was criticized, it is the government's advertising program. When we look at it, we simply have to ask: "Is some of this advertising? Is it propaganda? If it is advertising that can be justified, where is the evaluation?" It does not seem it is accomplishing its legitimate objectives, if there are any.

At least we would like to see from this ministry a breakdown of government advertising by objectives and something about the evaluation system that is put in the market testing of the advertising programs. We have had such ludicrous things as the advertising of nonexistent programs in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

and Housing. I am assuming this ministry has not had those problems, but it would be interesting to see an evaluation of its programs.

Another matter that has been brought up is the improvement in intercity network lines, conference calls and so forth. I would be fascinated to find out whether this has reduced transportation costs and whether there has been an actual value-for-money study done on the communications program. If there has, has it been done from a personnel point of view as well as analysing whether message A goes cheaper along a line from A to B? Have there been any personnel problems involved in initiating the new communications system?

5:40 p.m.

I can remember talking years ago to one of the scientists for Northern Electric, which was doing the research for Bell Canada. He said he considered some of the research he was being forced to do unethical as far as what the consumer was actually ending up with was concerned. He said what they do not tell you is that while some of this fancy equipment may well be of assistance in getting a message from A to B faster and perhaps even cheaper, the human factor, the breakdown in communications by those human beings who are used to communicating face to face and the misunderstandings which are created by that new technology would outweigh and often cost businesses more than the savings they thought they were accomplishing by the new electronic gadgetry.

That might be interesting in terms of evaluating it, not only from the usual standards of efficiency but also from a personnel point of view, whether or not it makes for good understanding between people who have to communicate and work together in a personnel sense.

My colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) wants to deal at some length later with some of the concerns about affirmative action. I am pleased the minister has referred to it on page 28. My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has some issues he wants to bring up.

I would also like to deal at some length, if we have time, with section 39 of the Provincial Auditor's report and obtain a few more specific answers from the minister or the deputy minister concerning his responses to the auditor's report and what is being done. Rather than take time now, I would prefer to deal with those as specific questions.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the minister wish to respond at this point?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, I could touch on a few of the issues now, if you like, and catch the rest on Thursday evening. I understand the critic from the New Democratic Party will not be here Thursday night, but I am sure he will read Hansard for any questions still outstanding as of that time.

I guess the overriding single issue covered by both speakers who followed me were what was referred to as the Alan Gordon affair, or the auditor's affairs, or whatever. I would like to spend a few moments on those issues—frankly, I feel they are ancient history now—and try to put them once again in some context not only in the sense of the realities of what happened and what has happened since, but I would even suggest that in one or two instances the auditor's report be reread.

For example, I will go down the three matters that were principally covered: the Foster contracts, the Telepac telephone data base, and the food services contract with Joe Dineley.

On the Foster contracts, there is no doubt the auditor did suggest that if the ministry was as pure as it suggested it was, it could have, and probably should have, and brought the total issue to Management Board. Having said that, really in no way did he say the ministry had broken the rules. I think he indicated that maybe they took the rules to the nth degree. I do not think anybody who is reasonable, responsible and fair would deny that \$15,000 contracts are appropriate and that they are \$15,000 rather than \$15,100. That is human nature. I do not think there is anything particularly devious about that.

There was a lot of evidence put forth, particularly in the standing committee on public accounts and in previous responses, that there was a whole series of issues that Mr. Foster, through his firm, did deal with. They were, in that regard, very legitimate different aspects to a program and very legitimately could and should be, and were, broken up.

Again, I am sure somewhere along the line, and I was not part of it—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Always a disclaimer.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Not really. I defended them even at the time when it would have been very easy to say it had nothing to do with me.

It is safe to say that perhaps one of them could have been \$16,000 rather than \$14,000, \$15,000 or \$12,000 as the case may be, but in terms of the ongoing type of study and the ongoing program that Mr. Foster was hired to do, I think it comes under the heading, as was indicated before in a very positive way by the member for Erie (Mr.

Haggerty), that one sometimes has to be, as this ministry is, progressive, realistic and rational and try to get the best value for the taxpayer's dollar.

When one is involved in a series of programs where one moves into the other and a new question or a new issue is posed, in my view it is not unreasonable to say, "If we now start the whole process, we mark time, we lose some of the initiative we have on this particular program."

I am sure at least one fell into the category of this one having to be a maximum of \$15,000 rather than perhaps making two parts together that may have come to \$16,000, \$18,000 or \$22,000 or whatever the case may be. Regardless of what the motivations were, the end result was a good product that has served the ministry, the government and hence the taxpayers well, and the rules were not broken.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The end justifies the means. Is that the argument?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: To some degree. I think we have to follow the rules. Basically, I do not deny that. The rules are there to protect everybody.

In my view, in looking back into it, as I did at the time—and I do not mind saying this—there was no intent whatsoever at the start of that series of assignments to circumvent the rules. I did acknowledge that perhaps somewhere it could have happened on one particular contract.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Do we get to pick the contract? Is that the new Ontario lottery? Pick the crooked contract?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Nobody has ever used the words "crooked contract," because I do not think there was ever any suggestion that value for money was not received and that the services performed were not well and properly done.

Moving on to Telepac and the telephone book, I am going to have to reread the auditor's report because there is no doubt that the member for Erie read what the auditor said, or did not say, a little differently from what I did. As I recall specifically the words from the member for Erie, he suggested that the auditor said the reason the ministry withdrew its last two submissions to Management Board of Cabinet was that it knew Management Board staff would not recommend it to the board.

In fact, what happened—and I thought this was clarified to some degree on the record in front of the standing committee on public accounts, not by the Deputy Minister of Government Services at the time but more by Management Board itself; Mr. Carmen, as I recall—

Mr. T. P. Reid: But the auditor found a memo saying, "Don't do this because they won't approve it."

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The background of that obviously requires some clarification. The reason for the delay and pullback of the submissions to Management Board was never the thought that the data base was not going to be done, that it was not needed or that the telephone book was not going to continue to be done. The whole issue was a matter of the ministry, in consultation with Management Board, trying to come up with a way to charge back to ministries the cost of this new service, whereas under the guidelines as they were this could not be done.

5:50 p.m.

In fact, there was a submission suggesting something that could not be done. They were told to go and look at it again and see whether they could come up with some other form of chargeback to the users that was not allowed at that time.

That was only the method of allocating the costs of that service, not that the service was not needed, not that the service would not be done. In fact it was done. Now it allows us to put out a phone book that is in ongoing use by honourable members, by staff, by people throughout the province. It can be and is more up to date when it is published than it was in the past.

Mr. T. P. Reid: They got the minister's picture on it fast as mustard.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is right. That is good, because the information was already there and ready.

It also allowed us, for the first time I think, to prepare the cross-references in the first phone book that came out after the information was compiled. As a matter of fact, I have had letters from all sides of the House, from ministries and people outside government stating the last telephone directory was the best one they had ever had in the context—

Mr. Boudria: Name them. I have never met one.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Just a minute—of being easier to follow, easier to identify positions, easier to identify people. True, I did have a couple, and believe me only a couple, of negative comments regarding the colour of the paper.

Mr. Boudria: They cannot even spell Bob McKessock's name correctly.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Honourable members had their opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I would suggest to the members the colour of the paper had nothing to do with the process itself.

It also allows for the first time the opportunity to respond accurately and quickly to people's inquiries by telephone and to people who come into our various ministry offices in the information sections. They want to find a particular function, they want to identify a particular person and the person on duty can go into the computer and bring out of that data base accurately and quickly the information needed.

The third point was a specific question asked by the member for Erie regarding the food services contract to Joe Dineley. His question was, "Is he still there?" The answer is no. He was initially hired on the basis of a one-year contract which was subsequently extended for a little less than two months because the full program he was contracted to do was not quite finished. It was felt prudent that the person who had worked on it for a year should finish the job.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Besides, he had all those sandwiches made up years in advance.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is true and the honourable member is eating them all the time.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We had them for 17 years.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am glad the member who came down from the north recently, the Liberal-Labour or Labour-Liberal or whatever member, brought up that subject. One of the things that came out of the study of the systems and recommendations on the changing systems from Mr. Dineley's contract was that one of the problems with the contracts with the various government offices was that they were too static, too demanding and too specific.

They suggested the size of the piece of lettuce, the size and the specific cost of an orange or an apple, an apple more particularly. They did not allow any flexibility for the entrepreneur to say, "I can sell apples cheaper in the fall than I can in the spring because they are local products. They have not had to be in storage so they cost me less and I can sell them for less."

Out of this, all the food services contracts we have been putting out for tender during the last number of months are on the basis of new criteria that have greatly improved not only the quality of food for all those who have to consume it, whether they be members, employees within the greater complex or in other buildings in or outside Metropolitan Toronto. They have been the beneficiaries of the new contracts.

I personally had some experiences in that regard before even coming into my new responsi-

bilities at the Ministry of Revenue. The Ministry of Revenue, and the Ontario health insurance plan in Kingston and St. Catharines were all put out on the new criteria. They were the first ones. I can say that the quality of the food and the flexibility of the food services contract in the new Revenue building in Oshawa were very beneficial to the staff there, and these criteria are now used on all the contracts that have been put out for tender.

They have been put out in a very accelerated way. Some of them had expired previously and were purposely continued on an extended month-to-month basis until the new criteria were available, rather than putting them back out for retendering under the old criteria.

That is being done on a regular basis. I am quite sure that many of the members have noted in newspaper advertising the series of contracts put out for tendering throughout the province. As far as the signatory of that contract is concerned, people are quite adamant regarding the use of the Manual of Administration.

For those who take the trouble to look up the Manual of Administration, there are two things. First, on a technical services contract such as Mr. Dineley's, the ministry can go ahead and hire without advertising and without tender to fill a specific technical services need. That is exactly the kind of contract on which Mr. Dineley was retained.

As far as the names of the signatories is concerned, it is specific that, because of the nature and size of the contract, the signatory on that contract quite rightly should have been and was the deputy minister at the time, Mr. Alan Gordon. There was nothing out of whack about that at all. The right procedure was followed. The right signing was followed.

I think it is common knowledge that there were some differences of opinion as to whether Mr. Dineley should be the person who was retained. However, I think it was acknowledged, even by my predecessor, that he was aware of that contract. Perhaps he did not particularly want to go that route, but he acknowledged in the end it was the route to go. I think Mr. Dineley fulfilled his mandate in a very responsible way, and his services are no longer available to us because he did his job.

Mr. Philip: If your staff smile much more at that answer, some of them may fall out of the gallery with laughter.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I doubt it. There are many other questions, some of which will require me to put some numbers together. I do not have them

all, but I will get them and make the commitment that I have noted all the questions which are outstanding. I will respond to them on Thursday evening and have them on the record. For those who are not here, they will be able to get them from Hansard.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Ashe, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions, and progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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No. 38

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, May 8, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 8, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SHOOTING INCIDENT AT QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to express on behalf of all members of the House, in a very personal sense, my profound regret over the shooting incident that took place in the Quebec National Assembly earlier today. Most unfortunate of all, of course, is the fact that several people lost their lives as a result of this tragic act and others were injured.

It is also a matter of deep concern to all of us that such an event could and indeed did take place in one of Canada's legislatures. Such an occurrence is almost beyond comprehension, particularly in view of the fact that such an act of violence is so totally inconsistent with the values and beliefs associated with any parliament and with the free and open society in which we are all privileged to live.

Elected representatives must be able to perform their important public duties free from acts of violence, threats or other forms of intimidation. I think it is well understood by all members that an appropriate balance must be sought between the desire we all have to carry on the public business in an open and accessible manner and the need for certain security measures designed to preserve order and stability.

I do not think the facts are at all clear. Certainly I am in no position to make any judgement on whether any additional or alternative security measures would have in any way prevented the incident in the Quebec assembly. Mr. Speaker, I did meet with you, a deputy from the Ontario Provincial Police and the superintendent, and I understand you will be convening a meeting of the Board of Internal Economy later today. I have requested the senior officials of the OPP to make themselves available to offer to the board whatever advice may be required.

It is my hope that none of us will dwell on the question of security here at this moment and that under your leadership, Mr. Speaker, the Board of Internal Economy will review this matter. I want

to finalize these very sad comments by expressing my sincere regret about this shocking and tragic incident and by extending on behalf of the government and people of our province our sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives and our prayers for the speedy recovery of those who were injured.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the Premier (Mr. Davis) in his sensitive remarks, and on behalf of my colleagues, to express our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who were killed today and to those who were injured.

It reminds us of the thin filament in our society on which civility rests. Indeed, it makes us mindful that violence is a part of our everyday lives, even in this great country of ours. The fact that it would happen, as the Premier said, in the centre of democracy, in a legislature, makes that threat far more personal not just to members of the Legislature but indeed to all the staff who work here and to our guests in the gallery, children particularly, and shows us the threats to the system that exist at all times.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you for reviewing the security precautions here in the Legislature. I know you will not overreact; I know you will do it in a balanced and thoughtful way. I know that you, like the rest of us, do not want to turn the Legislature into an armed fortress of any type. But we want to maintain this as the centre of democracy; we want to make it open and accessible and to protect those basic and essential freedoms that we all value so very highly in this Legislature and in this province.

I think it may be appropriate, and I recommend to the Premier, that perhaps a joint resolution should go forward from this House, perhaps even today, expressing our sympathy to the families of the people who were killed and injured as well our heartfelt best wishes to our colleagues in the Quebec National Assembly, who I am sure will be at this moment extremely concerned about the situation as well.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of my party I would like first of all to express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of those people who were victims of this extra-

ordinary attack in the Quebec National Assembly.

J'aimerais exprimer de la part de notre parti notre sympathie profonde aux familles des victimes de cette attaque extraordinaire, une sympathie qui ne peut jamais vraiment compenser les familles pour cette perte extraordinaire mais, tout de même, qui sort, je crois, d'un sentiment profond de notre part et, je veux dire, de la part de toute la population de notre province.

We live in very difficult and extraordinary times. It is very difficult for us to contemplate what could possibly seize the mind of an individual and lead to this tragic event.

It seems to me that it reminds us not only of the vulnerability of all of us—indeed, those who appear to have been the victims were simply people working in the assembly and in the chamber in various ways—but also of the importance of our awareness that these things can happen.

Mr. Speaker, our party obviously discussed this event this morning in our caucus as soon as we heard of it, and we would certainly be willing and eager to participate in any review you would like to undertake of security measures. I remind everyone that no security measure is infallible and is going to be perfect, but we do have to take measures that will provide some protection for everyone, not just for politicians but for everyone who works and depends for his or her living on the work of this place.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we express our profound sympathy to the families, we hope for a speedy resolution of this event and we look forward to participating in whatever review you may initiate of proceedings here.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CROWN TIMBER FEES

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister confirm his intentions, and I presume those of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), to increase both the crown stumpage fees and the acreage charge to the forest industry by 25 per cent, along with the inflation indexing of the stumpage system, effective as of April 1, 1984, with a similar increase in 1985?

How can the minister justify this exorbitant 60 per cent rate increase over the next year, a revenue grab of \$13 million from the forestry industry, at a time when the industry is just beginning to recover from the recession?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, since 1981 this government has been reviewing with the industry in an open fashion the need for some change in the direct timber revenues and the crown dues aspects of its operations. Therefore, it is no surprise. There has not been an increase since 1980.

Last week, I did begin discussions with the forest products industry with respect to this matter. I did indicate we were looking at a two-phased increase. This was the proposal we put on the table.

I should remind the honourable member that one of the effects of double-indexing in some circumstances in current market conditions is to reduce the crown dues chargeable to hardwoods and to restrict the increase in softwood lumber products to 12.5 per cent. Thus a double-indexing system does have the impact of lessening what appears to be a 25 per cent increase in revenue.

We have just initiated a discussion with the forest products industry with respect to the total program in the coming years. We have laid out a number of options for it to consider. Before we finalize the entire program, including the second 25 per cent proposed increase in fees, we would listen to the advice of the forest products industry.

I would also add that we get information on a regular basis from the forest products industry and our ministry staff with respect to the profitability of operations and market trends in the industry. We are aware of the points of view about the timing and the degree of this increase.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Can the minister indicate whether this is going to be a budget measure? Does he intend to continue this as an order in council or under regulation?

I cannot understand how the minister can possibly be suggesting what amounts to an increased tax on an industry that was battered more than most by the recession in 1980, 1981 and 1982. It is an industry just now coming out of the recession, which had massive layoffs and whose prices are still down.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, if you will permit, there are two quick things.

Newsprint prices are still what they were in the spring of 1981. Studs are \$2.49 per thousand; they were \$3.11 per thousand one year ago. Lumber is 40 per cent below the price of one year ago. How can the minister even consider at this time raising these prices and costs to an industry

whose profit margins are just starting to come up and its workers starting to go back after having had its problems with the recession?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am aware of the cyclical nature of the forest products industry. I am every bit as aware of it as is the member. The same argument can be used every fourth year in the industry to justify no action being taken.

As I indicated to the member earlier, this is part of an ongoing review that we initiated with the forest products companies to discuss potential changes in crown dues and direct timber revenues. We are looking at a whole range of options, including the credit system for reforestation work and utilization practices.

We are looking at the double-indexing, whether or not it should proceed and what the impact will be on different products depending on price, because the price would reflect whether they would pay more or fewer crown dues under this system. This is part of our ongoing discussion with the forest products industry. There is nothing unusual. I remind the member—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Are they not going to pay more under this?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Not necessarily. This is precisely what I tried to indicate. Double-indexing—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Pope: No, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary; the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am amazed the Minister of Natural Resources would be answering two questions from the member of the Liberal Party which have to do with budget information. He has not denied the validity of that information. He has not challenged the validity of that information.

Is the Minister of Natural Resources aware that he is now participating in a budget discussion a week before the release of the budget? Is he aware that he is participating in that kind of discussion and that he is breaching the general security that is supposed to surround budget measures?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, as I was going to say to the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), he is aware that the American jurisdictions consider our product to be too price-competitive for the American industries competing in the United States and have taken actions in the American jurisdictions to try to keep our product out because it is so cost-competitive. The

member should not say that crown dues or crown charges would have the effect of not making us competitive any more and putting these industries under, because it would not happen.

The leader of the third party knows full well that no budget decisions have been finalized or announced. It will be up to the Treasurer if he wishes to announce any changes in his budget. All I have indicted to the member for Rainy River is that I have discussed a new system of direct crown revenues for our forest products industries with the industry.

Mr. T. P. Reid: All of this aside, how can the minister justify these increases—and there are going to be increases at some point or other—in an industry that has had its problems in the past and into which this government, along with the federal government, was pouring money a few years ago to make it competitive? Now it comes along and increases the taxes.

How does the minister justify this, given his government's six and five program? The administered prices in Ontario are not supposed to go over five per cent.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We never had a six and five program.

Mr. T. P. Reid: You never had such a program?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Question, please.

Mr. T. P. Reid: A five per cent increase. How does the minister justify increasing these things by up to 60 per cent, if he follows through on them, in 11 months? How does he justify his five per cent administered price program and a 60 per cent increase in crown dues and stumpage?

Hon. Mr. Pope: No decision has been made by cabinet or by the Minister of Natural Resources to increase crown dues to the forest products industry. As I said the first time, we have initiated discussions with the forest products industry on a new revenue package that ties in with a lot of issues the member himself was dealing with in this Legislature two or three weeks ago during private members' hour and a number of the issues his spokesmen were addressing during that same private members' hour.

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education. She will no doubt recall our discussion in the House a few days ago with respect to the antiquated guidelines for curriculum in the province and the fact that many of her science guidelines were 20 years old. She

is mindful, I know, of the document of her colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), called *Economic Transformation: Technological Innovation and Diffusion in Ontario*, and of the need for young people trained in science and technology, as well as the condemnation in the Science Council of Canada report with respect to her ministry.

How does the minister feel she or our young people in the province can participate in the economic transformation and can develop the new kinds of technological skills that are necessary when her course guidelines are so far out of date? I refer specifically to the elements of computer technology, senior division, which were created in 1970. They are 14 years old. No one at that time had even heard of fifth-generation computers or artificial intelligence.

How can the minister move this province forward when she is running it with such antiquated course curricula?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member obviously does not recognize the fact that those guidelines are in the process of being redefined right now; and I will give him a timetable for all of them, as a matter of fact, in the very near future.

Mr. Peterson: Why does it always take the minister so long to respond to this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: I want to get another assurance from the minister. What kind of monitoring situation does the ministry have to make sure the guidelines she has are being implemented? I refer to an Ontario Institute for Studies in Education researcher who said her efforts to ascertain which schools had implemented guidelines resulted in the conclusion that a majority of schools did not use the guidelines and they were sitting on a shelf.

Once the minister creates modern guidelines—which presumably she may do some time, even if she is going to blame the federal government for her inaction—how is she going to implement them? How is she going to monitor them to make sure they are being used in this province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It seemed to be entirely reasonable to begin the process of implementation of new guidelines once the response to the secondary education review project was completed. Certainly it seemed to be appropriate to ensure that the content of those guidelines would be as current and as relevant as it possibly could be. We have, therefore, enlisted

the aid of not only teachers within the province who have been responsible for the development of guidelines in the past—

Mr. Bradley: Do not blame the teachers. Blame your ministry for not showing leadership.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not blaming anyone.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question, if the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) would just restrain himself from time to time.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, please.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The teachers have been actively involved in that process because we have believed firmly it was absolutely necessary to ensure that those who were responsible for delivering the program should also play a part in the development of the guidelines. That process is being augmented this year with the assistance of representatives of faculties from universities and representatives of faculties from colleges of applied arts and technology.

The process of redevelopment is ongoing. It began more than 18 months ago. The first phase will be completed totally by the spring of 1985 for all subjects, as far as I am aware, and by then we will have developed a plan for constant renewal.

In addition, the role of the supervisory officer in the school system in Ontario includes the obligation to ensure that the guidelines are being followed in each of the courses within the secondary school program of Ontario. On top of that, we do have provincial reviews in a number of subjects annually. That, too, is a part of the activity to ensure that the guidelines are being pursued.

If the member has a statement from a member of the staff of OISE, I would be very pleased to see it. Not even his good friend Mark Holmes, who is a strong Liberal, has said that.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, has the minister noticed that while the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) talks about utilizing the insights and resources of the Science Council of Canada, that party itself is rather wary of adopting a technological change program that has issued from that source because of its concern that it might not be approved by the chamber of commerce?

I want to ask the minister about the review of technical education her ministry is undertaking, which I believe has been in process for six years now.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: Could she please tell us where that review of technological education is that has been in the works for six years? Is it about to be produced? After six years, will it meet the current circumstances that technological education faces in a rapidly moving technological world?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, because there has been ongoing currency within that review, there is no doubt it will meet the requirements that are present today. It is my understanding it has been completed or is almost completed. It should be available either this spring or in September 1984.

If the member wants me to answer the first question, no, I was not aware of the situation suggested by him.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is not aware of very much, very obviously. Let me ask her a final supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I congratulate the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) on his attempt at humour. No one understood it, but it was a good try. It shows progress.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Let me ask the minister another question on the same subject. We still have not heard an adequate explanation of why so many science courses and technical courses are so far out of date. I am not talking about years; I am talking about decades. The ministry has been working on them for at least five years, yet there have been no results.

Why has the minister been reluctant to share the course curriculum guidelines with Dr. Orpwood, the author of Science Education in Canadian Schools? As I understand it, this was the only province that was too embarrassed to share the information so it could not be published. For Ontario it says, "No senior years guidelines available." Is that because the minister was embarrassed?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is because they were in the process of development at the time they finally got around to asking us.

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. It concerns the report tabled yesterday of the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario. The commission revealed the following startling information in volume 3

of its report. According to what I may say is a very conservative methodology, it estimated that 75 to 145 deaths per year from all cancers could be attributable to occupational exposure to asbestos in Ontario.

At the same time as that information is put out in the report, the Ontario Workers' Compensation Board has reported that it allowed only 20 asbestos-related cancer claims in 1980. The document goes on to describe the board's response to this discrepancy as sophistry and it calls on outreach and other measures to be taken by the board in order to remedy this obvious undercompensation of asbestos sickness throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: What is the minister going to do to improve the outreach of the Workers' Compensation Board? Specifically, will he sit down with the board and get it to take off the air that ridiculous ad put out by the Construction Safety Association of Ontario which simply blames the victim instead of really compensating the victims of exposure to asbestos?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could refer first to the advertisement that has been described as ridiculous. That television commercial was endorsed by the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario. There were two very distinguished senior labour leaders who served on the labour-management committee which approved that commercial.

The message of the commercial is that it is unfortunate that management and labour were unaware of the hazards in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The purpose of the commercial is to raise awareness of the hazards on construction sites and indicate that there is a proper way to handle the procedures.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I find that answer troubling in that we have known for many decades about the hazards of asbestos.

I would like to ask the minister a specific question about one of the recommendations, because I have a friend who is an ironworker and who was diagnosed as having mesothelioma a couple of months ago. He has worked on five different projects, one of them being the Johns-Manville plant, and many other construction sites.

One of the new, very helpful recommendations of this commission would be that this man, because he has mesothelioma, would automatically be compensable and that the onus to rebut this would be on the part of the company. We

have now taken two months in his case trying to search back through the various corporations to see in which one he might have contracted it, even though there was asbestos in many of them. It is a terrible waste of time.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How quickly will the minister move the board to accept that recommendation and make it possible for this person to get automatic assistance instead of having to wait months and months and possibly even have to go through appeals before he receives justification and compensation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, first, if the member will share the information with me, I will commit myself to personally following up on it with the board.

I would also like to point out that in the very few short days we have had this report we have already set up a mini-secretariat within our ministry to deal expeditiously with the various recommendations and points that have been raised.

2:30 p.m.

I have here in my hand a document I have just received from the Workers' Compensation Board that takes each of the recommendations made by the royal commission report and indicates just what the current situation is. This is the starting point for discussions I will be having with the Workers' Compensation Board, as the member suggests.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, we have known about the problem for more than 40 years. A royal commission looked into the problem for more than four years and has made very specific recommendations on what the Workers' Compensation Board should do to give better and fairer treatment to the unfortunate workers who have suffered from asbestosis.

Can we get a commitment from the minister that he will not let this process drag on in the same way he has allowed the Weiler report process to drag on and on? Even in this session of the House, we have had no action concerning the report done by the committee this winter.

Can we have the minister's assurance he will not allow the same type of foot-dragging to take place with this report that he has allowed with other recommendations concerning vital changes needed to the Workers' Compensation Act?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, let us refer to the Weiler report for a moment. There is no foot-dragging there.

Mr. Mancini: There is a lot of foot-dragging. You promised us we would have legislation. That was your promise.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) will please sit down. The minister will address himself specifically to the question on workers' compensation asked by the member.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, if I follow your instructions—Mr. Speaker, are you listening to me, sir?

Mr. Speaker: Always.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: If I follow your instructions to the letter, I will have to answer with one word. Is that what you are looking for, or can I elaborate a bit?

The short answer to my friend opposite is yes, he has my commitment there will be speedy action. However, I think it is unfair to leave the impression that Ontario has done nothing for 40 years. That has not been the case at all. Ontario has been in the forefront of jurisdictions around the world that have acted on protection for workers with respect to asbestos.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that as a result of the commission's conclusion that exposure to asbestos in friction materials results in only marginal health risks, the widows of Hank Bednarick, Ed Rogers and Nelson Masse, Bendix workers who died of laryngeal cancer, will probably not obtain compensation and justice?

Are those men some of the workers who are depicted in that despicable ad?

Is the minister aware that the Finkelstein and Kusiak study cited in the commission's report, volume 1, has been judged by Dr. Philip Landrigan, director of hazard evaluations for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the United States, to be so flawed as to be uninterpretable and to have so little information that no generalizations can be made from it? If that is the case, why is this commission accepting that kind of report and using it as a justification of its position?

Will the minister ensure that the compensation board acts to get rid of that terrible ad which blames workers like Ed Rogers and Nelson Masse, and that it uses the money being spent on that ad to compensate the widows of the workers who have died from this terrible disease?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday the ad was placed by the Construction Safety Association. It was not placed by the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Wildman: You are helping to fund it.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Granted it is receiving its funding from the Workers' Compensation Board, which in turn receives its funding from employers.

I understand the chagrin of the honourable member. I will certainly commit myself to having a further discussion about that advertisement. I have not seen it, so I do not know whether I would agree with the use of the word "despicable," but in fairness to the member opposite I will take a look at it and I will follow up on that particular case.

The rest of the question was whether I was aware of a portion of the report which referred to the use of asbestos in the production of brakes, the effect this apparently has had on certain members, and would I follow up with the Workers' Compensation Board on that issue. The answer in all cases is yes.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. It concerns an extraordinary publication from his ministry which came to my attention just the other day. It is called, *And Finally I Did Get A Job*. I initially assumed it might be the minister's autobiography, but it turns out it is not. It is a publication allegedly produced for young people who are looking for work in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: The first page has a cartoon which says, "Not having a job can make you feel sad and lonely, but if you really work at it, you will get one."

Is the minister really saying the 180,000 young people who do not have work simply have not tried hard enough to find a job and that is the reason they are unemployed?

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, the simple answer to the question is no. The purpose of the brochure was to encourage young people who had been having difficulty to try again and to follow some of the suggestions in the brochure on how they might be better able to acquire job-seeking skills.

Mr. Rae: It is a very long book; it is not just a brochure. It is a very lengthy pamphlet and it is accompanied by another little handy card which has a number of useful interview tips. One of them, about which I would like to ask the minister, is tip number 9 for young people looking for a job. It says, "Do not ask about wages, hours or benefits."

I know the government is committed to mid-Victorian values; the Premier (Mr. Davis) has said so.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister really serious in saying that a young person who is asking for a job should not know how much he or she is being paid, how long he or she is expected to work, or whether or not he or she is going to qualify for a pension? Is that really what he is arguing?

Hon. Mr. Dean: The little pocket folder the leader of the third party refers to was an optional aid in case people in the client group to which this brochure was directed found it was desirable to have a little helpful reminder in their pockets when they went for an interview.

The specific question he has asked was obviously addressed to say that a person who is going to engage an employee is probably most interested in knowing how keenly the person wants a job. Probably the first question a prospective employee asks should not be about all those details listed there.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing is that justice slowly trickles down in action right here. Would the minister not agree that this kind of superficial little advertising campaign which he has does very little to address the real problem?

When we have 183,000 young people out of work on one hand, yet we want thousands of skilled workers on the other hand—48,000, according to the Ontario Manpower Commission—one of the essential failures is the failure of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and her officials to educate and train our young people for the jobs that are available. Is that not one of the roots of the issue? Would the minister not agree this is the issue that has to be attacked and he should be doing it in concert with his colleagues, rather than putting out these silly little brochures?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I would not agree that the issue of job training and skills training has not been properly addressed by the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities. If the Leader of the Opposition were to address a subsequent question to the minister, I think she could give him a great deal of detail about the extensive programs of job training for young people and people of other ages.

As to the question that was raised about the purpose of the brochure, it was addressed to young people who perhaps have been disad-

vantaged in one way or another and who actually appreciate very much the kind of help that comes to them where they are, speaks to them in a language they can understand and is successful mainly through the efforts of the youth employment counselling centres in providing employment and an incentive for retraining to thousands of young people in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, this Mickey Mouse publication is an insult to every young person in Ontario looking for a job who cannot find one, and there are nearly 200,000 of them. Under the description of interviews, it says, "They are pretty scary at first, but you will get better with experience."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: That is damned right because there are no jobs. It adds, "And after a while you may even enjoy them."

Why does the minister put out a document saying to people who are looking for jobs that they are going to start enjoying interviews when he should really be providing jobs? How much did this Mickey Mouse publication cost?

Hon. Mr. Dean: I really do not know whether the leader of the third party is living in the real world or not. The real world is that many people of all ages, whether they be Rhodes scholars or people who dropped out of the educational system, do have difficulty in attaining and holding a job. Many of the people—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Dean: I was not including the honourable member as one of those who have difficulty in getting a job; it was in retaining it.

Every member of this House knows people who have had to ask more than once to get secure employment. The brochure was being realistic in telling them that likely they will not be successful the first time.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Agriculture and Food confirm reports that a recent ministry policy change has been adopted that will phase out diagnostic services to farmers from the government veterinary services branch? Is the minister aware of a recently reported case near Chatham involving some \$32,000 worth of swine. About \$12,000 of that was directly attributable to the fact the government diagnostic laboratory would not pass on the sample after it had made the diagnosis. Can he tell us when he is answering why the government is cutting back on these services?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is I would like to take it as notice because, if I remember correctly, the case in question has to do with a particularly sophisticated kind of serum. There was a change in the procedures to obtain the serum. It was not cut off. Because it is so complicated and because I cannot recall all the facts at this moment, I will take it as notice and give the member a report in the House on Thursday.

Mr. McGuigan: I am aware of some of the original changes that were made in submitting the sample, but this has to do with after the sample has been received and diagnosed. I would like to point out that Dr. Andrew Manson at Charing Cross says the Centralia laboratory is one of the best in the world, and because it has this special art it cannot readily be transferred to some private company. It would take years to develop the expertise these people have.

Will the minister reverse this policy because it has an impact on human health? I am sure the minister is aware health authorities are very concerned about the use of antibiotics, getting the antibiotics to the point where they will not carry out their job, thereby endangering human health.

When the minister brings that answer back to us, will he look at the human health aspects of it and also at the fact that we are playing into the hands of all those who are against the confinement rearing of livestock? As the minister knows, there is a group of people opposed to this and he is giving them all sorts of ammunition when he suggests that antibiotics be used in place of the serum.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As I said, I will take it as notice. I am pleased to note the member's comments about our Centralia lab. In fact, we are proud of the whole of the lab system in the province. We have recently broken ground to enlarge significantly the veterinary lab at Brighton so that we can better serve eastern Ontario. I will report back to the House and answer the member on Thursday.

ALLOCATION OF CHILD WELFARE

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, it is with some trepidation that I pose a question to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

Could he explain why the families and children of Algoma are at such a tremendous disadvantage with respect to the distribution of government funds for child welfare compared to the rest of northern Ontario? They are so much so that it would take an increase of 40 per cent per

capita for Algoma to reach the regional average allocation.

What is the reason for that? What is the provincial government prepared to do to adjust Algoma's allocation at least up to the regional average within a reasonable period of time?

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, if the member will give me the particulars, I will take it up with my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea), who has the direct operation of that program.

Mr. Wildman: In response to that, I should point out that the figures released by the Ministry of Community and Social Services indicate that for mental health services the per capita in Algoma is \$17.74; for the children's aid society it is \$69.76; and for juvenile corrections it is \$36.42. The total per capita allocation is \$124 compared to Sudbury-Manitoulin where it is \$192 and Thunder Bay where it is \$173.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wildman: What on earth is the reason for the discrepancy between the allocation we receive in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma and those for Sudbury, Thunder Bay and the other districts of northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Dean: I can only repeat my answer to the first question.

DRUG PRESCRIPTION

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. He is no doubt aware of the controversy at Ryerson health clinic regarding the prescribing of the morning-after pill, diethylstilbestrol, commonly known as DES, by Dr. Donald Barr despite overwhelming evidence dating back 13 years that DES babies often develop cancer of the vagina in young adulthood.

Can the minister advise the House what action he has taken on this issue considering the doctor in question has currently agreed only to stop prescribing the drug while he conducts his own review of the literature?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not intimately familiar with the controversy to which the honourable member refers. I would be pleased to take it as notice and get the information for her on it.

Ms. Copps: The minister will no doubt be aware that there has been extensive press coverage on the issue. I would have thought he would have been aware of it.

Basically, the facts are that a doctor at the Ryerson health clinic is continuing to prescribe

DES or is stopping prescribing it only during a literature review, even though there is clear evidence that DES can result in cancer of the vagina for the babies of DES mothers, which the minister will no doubt be aware of.

Is the minister aware that a complaint is being filed with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario on this issue? I wonder if he might meet with the college in view, not only of the doctor's refusal to stop prescribing DES permanently but also his own punitive habits with respect to medical practice.

I quote from the doctor in question who gives this as the reason he likes to prescribe DES: "I have another little quirk. Most women who take it are quite nauseated on it. In fact, some go on to vomiting. That, to me, helps to drive home the lesson that responsible contraception is preferable to an easy morning-after."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Copps: Does the minister agree with the doctor's view of DES? If he does not, will he meet immediately with the college to consider the imposition of a ban on DES as a post-coital contraceptive?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In response to the second question, I think the member ought to realize that she is directing her request to the wrong minister and the wrong level of government. I do not have any authority over the approval of pharmaceutical products for the market. That is clearly the responsibility of her federal colleague the Honourable Monique Bégin. I should think she would be receptive to whatever suggestions that minister might have to make in that regard. I do not have any control over the authorization of pharmaceutical products for the market.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I wrote to this minister about this matter in an open letter about four weeks ago when the matter first broke in the press. I am surprised he or his staff has not taken this issue and proceeded with it. He is the Minister of Health, and a lot of people are really upset about how this doctor was using DES.

Rather than suggesting an opposition critic talk to Monique Bégin, perhaps the minister would take on some responsibility. Rather than trying to deflect it to the federal government, he should do it himself and make sure the women of this province are protected.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the member ought at least to acknowledge that ministers of health at the provincial level have had very little success in attempting to talk about

anything with Mme Bégin for the last two years. This is a very serious matter, and I was not in any way being facetious in my suggestion that Mme Bégin, who refuses to talk to provincial ministers of health, might listen to the member.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and I hope he will not try to deflect this one.

Our party continues to do surveys of hospitals across the province. One survey included hospitals in my home town of Windsor. We found the Metropolitan General Hospital is regularly using eight corridor beds and 14 beds in the emergency ward for holding people overnight. The Salvation Army Grace Hospital is regularly using the emergency holding area and often five people are occupying ward rooms designed for four. Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital is often experiencing difficulties in emergency and must call other hospitals. Windsor Western Hospital Centre has a holding area of three to five and is also putting people in its coronary care and intensive care units when it does not have enough room in its ordinary ward beds.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: These hospitals are not telling us that these are isolated incidents. They are telling us that they are regular occurrences at the hospitals in Windsor. What is the minister prepared to do to solve the problem in Windsor if he is not going to do anything else anywhere else in the province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would be quite pleased to have my staff review the procedures at the hospitals that the member mentions. I think it might be of some educational value for him as well as for me in this particular instance. For example, one factor that very much influences the utilization rate of hospital beds is the management control procedures that are commonly practised in those hospitals.

Before jumping to any conclusion with respect to the number of beds available per capita and whether that is adequate, it is important, first of all, to look and see whether those beds that are available are being properly utilized in terms of procedures that could be imposed.

There are certainly hospitals within Metropolitan Toronto that never experience a shortage of beds and do not have to do the kinds of things the member is referring to. What distinguishes them from the other hospitals that from time to time experience difficulty are the kinds of admissions and predischARGE procedures they have in place,

not to create any hardship to the patients, but rather to ensure there is appropriate monitoring of the condition of patients. When the time comes for their discharge, they are discharged, so the beds are freed up for other people.

Mr. Cooke: The only thing I would say to the minister is that these are the only four hospitals in Windsor. Perhaps the minister is suggesting we start transporting people from Windsor to Toronto where there seem to be an excess number of beds, according to him.

Does the minister not realize it is about time he did something about inappropriately placed patients? There are nearly 100 chronic care patients in Windsor in active treatment beds. We have a day hospital program at Riverview Hospital in Windsor that cannot even advertise the program and is not even coming anywhere near to meeting the need because its facility is so antiquated that it cannot fully operate a day hospital program. At the same time as it does not have enough capital, Riverview Hospital is spending \$1 million to upgrade this old facility while it waits for the new facility to be approved by the Ministry of Health.

There is \$1 million being spent when what we need is a brand new hospital. We are waiting for the ministry to get off its duff and finally approve something that has been in the plans for 15 years.

When is the minister going to approve the Riverview chronic care hospital and when is he going adequately to fund day hospital programs so that we can meet the need and discharge people early, as the minister himself has said?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I was not suggesting there ought to be any transfer of patients from Windsor to Metropolitan Toronto. If they do not already have in place the kinds of procedures to which I was referring, I am confident the staff and administration in the hospitals in Windsor are quite capable of doing this without having to admit failure and asking another community to take on that responsibility.

With respect to the timing of the approval of the projects to which the honourable member refers, those projects will be approved at an appropriate time, as resources become available and as they reach an appropriate priority within the context of the overall priorities across this province that have to be met within the available resources at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Roy: I have a question for the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor). I see he has stepped out; he must have been expecting a question from

the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman). Perhaps we could ask him to come back.

Mr. Speaker: If he is not here, you cannot very well ask him a question.

Mr. Roy: Then perhaps my colleague the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) has a question.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, the member for Grey.

RURAL PROGRAMS

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In the new publication, *Women in Rural Life*, which was presented in the House on Thursday, in the time constraints and heavy work load section, it states, "Since time is a limited commodity on the farm, it may be more difficult to obtain, develop and retain volunteer leaders for adult and youth programs."

Having determined this by his own studies, why did the minister ask 4-H leaders to take on more responsibility this year for things the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food had previously been doing? A recent OMAF Grey county newsletter stated, "The 4-H leaders will now be expected to evaluate members' work, including project books, and farm visits will no longer be conducted by the OMAF office."

After determining that volunteers are going to be hard to get and that they are already burdened, will the minister now instruct his offices to continue the way they did in other years? Will he see that his staff evaluates these 4-H books and makes the farm visits as in the past?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, unless I am mistaken, I believe the honourable member is alluding to a misunderstanding that occurred in Bruce county, of which the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) is well aware. I believe this misunderstanding has been cleared up.

As far as visits are concerned, the staff of the rural organizations and services branch will visit at least all first-year members and will continue to support the efforts of the volunteer leaders, whose contribution cannot be overstated. They really do make a very significant contribution.

Mr. McKessock: I am pleased the minister is reversing that part. On page 31 of his publication, one of his recommendations mentioned, "The ministry is going to continue to provide sound farm business management programs in order that farm women acquire greater skills, which will help them raise their confidence and self-assurance levels."

I believe the minister has missed the point again. They have the skills and they have been producing. What they want is to get paid for those skills. Is there going to be a payout in the upcoming budget to the red meat producers for their shipments in 1983 to bring them up to the level of other farmers producing in other provinces?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member is really grasping there. First of all, the words in the report are not my words; they are the words of the lady who authored the report. I think she did an extremely good job of it. It would seem the reaction to the report since its release last week supports that assessment.

Second, what the report is saying is that we should continue the emphasis of recent years on farm financial management programs; for example, the management-for-profit seminars conducted over the recent winter which were extraordinarily successful and very well attended. About a third of the persons attending the management-for-profit seminars were farm women.

To go on to the next point, we have discussed the question of retroactivity in a subsidy for the red meat industry on many occasions. My answer has not changed.

ACCREDITING OF TEACHERS

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. In mandating the Bovey commission, the minister referred to a zero-base review of current programs and wondered about maintaining 10 faculties of education at a time when there is a declining demand for teachers in the province.

How can those remarks be taken seriously when the ministry has accredited Niagara University and two other universities from offshore to offer master of education programs, programs that are substandard and make demands upon our educational system and resources without giving substantial return to our educational quality in the province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of a significant number of teachers in the province who are already involved in post-graduate programs with Niagara University, they have received provisional approval. It is provisional upon two sets of approvals which must be received and it is for a specified, short period of time.

Mr. Allen: Is the minister aware that fully one quarter of the teachers in the public education

system who received an master of education degree in recent years secured it from an American institution? Is she aware that those institutions, and Niagara in particular, do not require the same standards of graduation from a bachelor of education program as do our own bachelor of education programs?

Is the minister aware that the students of those programs are using not only our library resources but also our faculty and counselling services? Is she aware that even her own ministry does not know how many students are involved in those programs and that the accrediting process she refers to relies purely and simply upon the institution to tell her and her ministry whether it has happened and that it will not know much more than that in the process?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, we do not rely only upon that institution but upon the accrediting agency in the United States, which has the responsibility for accrediting such programs. It is my understanding that a significant number of teachers in the Niagara Peninsula have used that institution for the purposes of advancing their degrees, although, present company excepted, one might suggest they are very well trained at that level.

I would think the member might recognize that there is some necessity to provide some grandfathering, if you like, of those who are currently involved. One would not like to cut them off in midstream in the educational process in which they are currently participating.

We have made a limited, provisional support for that program at this time, based upon the requirement that accreditation be forthcoming from the accrediting agency in the United States.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, so that I have the minister's last answer absolutely correct, is she saying she is prepared to support and encourage a grandmothering and grandfathering clause? Is she assuring the House that those who are currently in the master of education program at Niagara University, for instance, will be allowed to complete that program there and that if she takes any further action, it will apply only to new people entering a master of education program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is correct as long as those currently enrolled can complete their courses within the next 18 months and provided the college has received the certificate of accreditation by June 1985, fully, by the accrediting body in the United States.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Can the minister advise as to why it was that he or one of his officials decided to comment publicly on a statement that was ruled inadmissible in a trial of a juvenile in Ottawa who is charged with manslaughter? Why did he not follow the advice of the senior crown attorney in Ottawa, Mr. Andrew Berzins? When he was asked to comment, he said it was improper for counsel to discuss the case during the course of the trial because it might influence the course of justice.

As one of the officials in the administration of justice, will the Solicitor General advise why he decided to say he was going to have an investigation of the conduct of the police pertaining to the obtaining of the statement from this juvenile, making that comment during the course of the trial?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the matter was that I would be asking for a report, not an investigation. There were questions on the matter and the reply was that a report would be asked for as to information in preparation for many of the questions being asked by the media at the time.

Mr. Roy: The minister may not be aware of the local press in Ottawa, but a major headline on the front page of a paper read, "Probe Ordered into Coercion of Nepean Boy." It goes on to state that the minister has ordered an investigation into the conduct of the police.

Having decided to comment at that time, can the Solicitor General, who is in charge of all the police in this province, advise as to his reluctance or what the delay is on the part of his ministry to give directives to the police across Ontario to start videotaping all interrogations by the police?

That has been suggested by the Ontario Law Reform Commission and has been suggested recently by the public complaints commissioner, Sidney Linden. Some police forces, including the Ottawa police force, are currently experimenting in that field. Does he not feel as Solicitor General that this would be a useful tool in shortening trials and preventing allegations against the police of coercion or otherwise in the taking of statements from accused people?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: As the honourable member knows with his education and background in the law, some changes are necessary in regard to the federal Criminal Code and the Evidence Act before that method of obtaining and using statements, videotaping, would be permissible. I would suspect there would be

some challenges under the new Constitution and the Charter of Rights, to use an example, as to whether somebody was incriminating himself when the material was videotaped. That is being discussed with our federal counterparts as to changes in the legislation.

As to instructing all the police forces of Ontario to use that process, it is new and is being experimented with in other areas. Naturally, in the judicial system and our state of the law we would like to arrive at this with some experimentation, have some pilot project and see how it works before instructing all police forces in Ontario to conduct the obtaining of confessions or evidence in that way. One might also say in this regard—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Pardon, Mr. Speaker? I did not hear you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you; new question.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Are you cutting off the answer?

Mr. Speaker: The member for Etobicoke.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I see.

PROOF OF INSPECTION

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who has responsibility for the Land Titles Act and the Registry Act.

Is the minister aware of the report passed by the city of Toronto which asks that the provincial government give powers to the municipality to have the right to require proof of inspection by a licensed termite inspector for termite infestation as a precondition for registration in the transfer of ownership of any property which the municipality may decide falls within a heavily termite-infested area?

Would the minister consider recommending to his colleagues the passing of that kind of legislation?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that I am aware of the issue but that no decision has been reached on it.

3:10 p.m.

TELEVISION IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege or a point of order or a point of view: The matter of television in the Legislature has come up repeatedly. Two minutes after question period started today, the television cameras picked up their bongo balls and went outside.

I can understand that; they had a story they wanted to get based on the Premier (Mr. Davis). But what it did in here was to make sure that the proceedings going on were not being recorded at all. I think it cries out for this place to be televised so that schools and so on in Ontario can find out what goes on.

The present practice and procedure are totally inadequate, and I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that you would use your good offices to try to talk the government into some kind of common sense that the people of Ontario have a right to see what is going on in here. It does not matter whether the Premier gets highlight billing out there—they can do that for him—but the procedures that go on in here are what is relevant with respect to conveying the knowledge of what goes on to the people of Ontario.

I resent what happened, and I hope something will be done shortly.

Mr. Speaker: If I may make an observation, that was hardly a point of whatever. The honourable member knows full well how to bring these matters to public attention through the proper channels, and I suggest that he bring this up at the next board meeting.

PETITIONS

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private members' bills of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

Mr. Speaker, I draw to your attention that these petitions are signed by 1,445 people, bringing the total to more than 6,000.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Durham West, Armourdale, St. George, Don

Mills and York West, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October, 1983,

We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This is signed by representatives of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario from Victoria county.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a similar petition from residents of the riding of Etobicoke.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a similar petition signed by a number of people from the Rainy River district, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MUNICIPAL PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eaton, first reading of Bill 58, An Act to amend certain Acts related to Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eaton, first reading of Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eaton, first reading of Bill 60, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eaton, first reading of Bill 61, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:20 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CITY OF KITCHENER ACT

Mr. Breithaupt moved second reading of Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the City of Kitchener.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

OAKVILLE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION-YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ACT

Mr. Kerr moved second reading of Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the Oakville Young Men's Christian Association-Young Women's Christian Association.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

TOWNSHIP OF FAUQUIER- STRICKLAND ACT

Mr. Piché moved second reading of Bill Pr20, An Act to continue the Corporation of the Townships of Shackleton and Machin under the name of the Corporation of the Township of Fauquier-Strickland.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Robinson moved, on behalf of Mr. Shymko, second reading of Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to speak to this bill during this reading, if I may. As members know, the bill deals with demolition control. More accurately, it should reflect the fact that it deals with demolition postponement. For some time, our party has looked for leadership from the government to bring in a bill that would apply to all municipalities across the province with respect to demolition control. The city of Toronto has urged the government to take some action on this matter.

The city was looking for the government to bring in at least a two-year postponement where buildings were going to be destroyed by a developer in order to build different units in that location. Because of the very low vacancy rate in the province, particularly in the city of Toronto—aside from Metropolitan Toronto, which is below one per cent—it is important that these units be kept on the market.

What has been happening is that some developers, with the very tacit support of the government in the sense that it has not done anything to try to curtail them, have gone ahead and tried to get a demolition permit and then remove the tenants. Some tenants have lived in these locations for anywhere from 10 to 20 to 30 and more years. They have gone into apartments

in their own neighbourhood where they had homes. All of a sudden, a developer comes along and says, "I want to destroy those apartments and construct new apartments, because there is greater monetary gain in the new apartments."

The tenants have been paying \$300, \$400 or \$500 a month in rent. All of a sudden, the builders find they can either build condominiums in those areas or, alternatively, they can build luxury apartments and try to collect \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month in rent.

As I indicated, the city of Toronto and my colleagues and I have been urging the government for some time to put a stop to this useless destruction of very well-constructed buildings. There is nothing wrong with them. The only thing wrong is that the developer thinks he can get a greater gain from constructing new buildings and collecting higher rents.

Unfortunately, the government has delayed and delayed and delayed and then finally brought in this bill—the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) brought it in—known as Pr3, which is for the city of Toronto and which puts a postponement of only one year on the destruction of these buildings. There is some urgency, particularly at this point, because there is at least one case before the courts.

I do not want to say anything that would jeopardize that case, but as the members know, the city lost its case yesterday. As a result, it has to issue a building permit to the developer for some units on Eglinton Avenue in Toronto. If the city does not appeal it—and it has a number of days to appeal it—if it has to issue the building permit in the final analysis, it means the contractor or developer is going to be able to get a demolition permit.

We hope this bill will give that case, as well as other cases—it does not apply to only one—at least a one-year postponement. We feel there should be at least two years because one year is not sufficient. The city of Toronto wanted very strongly to have two years but was not able to convince the government of that. As a result, the government has brought in a one-year postponement.

Again, we brought in an amendment, which was supported by the third party, that would give the city at least another chance after one year to reassess the situation and if it found the situation warranted, it could postpone the destruction of a building for at least another year. Unfortunately, the government defeated that amendment and there will be a one-year postponement only,

rather than a two-year postponement, with no real control over demolition.

My colleague the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri) has introduced a private member's bill that will give the government, if it adopts it, some kind of control over the situation for Ontario. That is going to come up some time in the near future. We hope all members of the House will support that bill.

I want to reiterate that we will support this bill, Pr3, reluctantly. We do not feel it goes far enough. We hope members will support private member's Bill 53 when it comes before the House. We also feel legislation should be brought in that would apply equally and fairly to all municipalities across the province.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I want to have a few minutes to speak on the debate on second reading of Bill Pr3 because of the importance of the issue for tenants across the province and the real inadequacy of Bill Pr3 itself. As my colleague the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) has said, this is not a bill that gives a municipality the power to control demolition. It simply gives the city of Toronto the power to delay the issuance of a building permit for 12 months. At the end of the 12-month period, the city of Toronto must then exercise its option under subsection 1(12) of the bill to expropriate the property in question. If it fails to so expropriate the property, then a demolition permit has to be issued.

3:30 p.m.

The problem with that notion, which may look all right on paper, is that neither the city of Toronto nor any other municipality has the resources to expropriate all the buildings on whose behalf owners are applying for demolition permits.

To take the example mentioned by my colleague the member for Waterloo North, we were told in committee that the value of the buildings at 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West, which are owned by Mr. Axelrod, is in the vicinity of \$5 million. In order to prevent those buildings from being demolished and the tenants being thrown out of their homes, the city of Toronto would have to find \$5 million.

In committee we heard that the one-year period, the 12-month delay, is not sufficient time for the city of Toronto or any other municipality to make application under the current social housing programs for funding. The 12-month period is not sufficient to permit a municipality to apply for funding under subsection 56(1) housing

programs. In fact, the municipality would need at least two years of lead time in order to do that.

Second, the parliamentary assistant indicated that the province had absolutely no plans to make additional resources available to municipalities to help them expropriate buildings which were threatened with demolition so that they could be retained as affordable housing stock.

In fact, subsection 1(12) is totally fraudulent. There is no possible way for the city to exercise its option under subsection 1(12) because the city does not have the resources to do it.

I have to point out that according to the city of Toronto there are applications for the demolition of 50 buildings in the city alone and there is a total of 1,448 apartment units currently on the list to be demolished. It is ironic that this is up from the last time we dealt with the demolition bill in the fall, when there were 42 buildings on the waiting list for demolition permits in the city of Toronto with a total of 1,228 apartment units.

The irony is that the difference between 1,448 and 1,228, about 200 units, is approximately the same number of units the city of Toronto has obtained this year through the housing allocation process. We are going to get 223 units of affordable housing in the city of Toronto under subsection 56(1), and since October 200 units have been added to the list to be demolished. The net loss for the current year could be something in the vicinity of 1,200 units. This is absolutely stupid.

Does the government realize the vacancy rate in the city of Toronto at the present time is 0.7 per cent? Does it realize it is virtually impossible to obtain affordable housing on the market in the city of Toronto in 1984? Does it realize the private sector, when it was before the committee dealing with the demolition bill in the fall, told us very candidly it could not build affordable housing in the city of Toronto? The representatives from the Canadian Institute of Public Real Estate Companies testified in October 1983 that the cheapest unit they could put on stream in the city of Toronto for a modest, no-frills, two-bedroom apartment would demand a market rent of \$800 a month.

I am not making this up. This is what officials of the real estate industry told us. They said the cheapest they could bring modest, nonluxury, no-frills market accommodation on stream in 1984 would be \$800 a month.

If the government does not understand what a housing crisis looks like, a crisis of affordability, this is what it looks like. The private sector cannot bring anything on stream for less than

\$700 to \$800 a month. I assume they could bring a one-bedroom apartment on stream for something like \$700 a month. Is that supposed to be affordable housing?

We have a vacancy rate of 0.7 per cent. We have 223 social housing units for the entire city as our allocation for 1984 for affordable housing, and this government stands here with a waiting list for apartment demolitions of 1,448 units. The best it can come up with is a 12-month delay.

Our concern is what the representatives of the development industry said very clearly in front of the committee, and I quote Mr. Bryan, who was with the Toronto Redevelopment Advisory Council, a very candid and frank spokesman for the industry. I asked him, "Of the 1,448 apartments, or the 50 buildings, that are in the demolition process at the present time, how many do you think will not be able to proceed to demolition permit by virtue of a one-year delay?"

Mr. Bryan replied, "I think all of them will eventually proceed to a demolition permit."

What could be plainer than that? The development industry understands very clearly. It was repeated by other witnesses that this bill is not going to save a single apartment currently on the demolition waiting list in the city of Toronto; not one. Mr. Bryan is confident, as he said later, that "in the fullness of time" each and every one of those apartments would be torn down. He, of course, was quite pleased at this wonderfully useful prospect.

The government has simply ignored that reality. We are going to support the bill because it gives a stay of execution to a number of apartments for another 12 months and principally because, as my colleague the member for Waterloo North says, it gives a stay of execution to the buildings owned by Mr. Axelrod at 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West, all of which are good quality, affordable apartment units.

It would be a criminal act for them to be torn down in the middle of a housing crisis, when there is no place to which the present tenants of those buildings can relocate. It gives a 12-month grace period.

When is this government going to confront the basic issues? A 12-month delay simply postpones the decision by 12 months. In my cynical moments I assume the government intends to get past the next provincial election with something in place—the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) is nodding in the affirmative—the government is trying to get past the next provincial election with a piece of paper in place, a law in place which it can say is demolition control.

Mr. Piché: I heard all that in committee; now you are repeating yourself.

Mr. McClellan: Right, that is true. I confess my weakness. I have succumbed to cynicism when I say the government is trying to get through the next provincial election without having any demolitions taking place in our large urban areas.

We know the problem is not confined to Toronto. The government is going to be getting a call from the city of Ottawa in the very near future because there is a 500-unit building, the Alvin Heights development, facing demolition. The 500 low-income units will be torn down and replaced by luxury conversions, probably condominiums. This is at a time when Ottawa is getting an equally ridiculous small number of social housing units under section 56.1 programs.

The problem is widespread. The government understands how embarrassing it would be to have these buildings torn down in the middle of a provincial election so this is what we get, a very cynical piece of legislation to simply postpone the decision by 12 months.

I put the government on notice that it cannot keep its head in the sand. The reality of the housing crisis is becoming overwhelming. It cannot permit 1,448 units to be torn down in the city of Toronto; it cannot permit 500 low-income apartment units to be torn down in the city of Ottawa or in any other community and have all these people thrown out on the street.

These are people who have their rights as tenants to security of tenure. Sooner or later this government is going to have to face up to the fact that tenants have the right to protection against economic eviction, as surely as they have other kinds of protection that have already been recognized and enshrined in our Landlord and Tenant Act.

The government has not caught up to the reality of the 20th century. The tenants have a basic right to security of tenure, including the right to be protected against the kind of economic eviction these demolitions and conversions represent. The sooner the government wakes up to that reality the better, but it has not yet woken up to the reality. The government still does not understand that vestiges of feudal law are not acceptable in the governance of landlord and tenant relationships. Until it understands that fact, it is going to be confronted with these regularly recurring crises.

3:40 p.m.

I have no doubt at all that in 12 months' time or sooner we are going to be back in the standing committee on administration of justice or in the standing committee for regulations and other statutory instruments looking at exactly the same issue and trying to find exactly the same solution.

I would suggest the solution has already been presented to the government. In essence, it is enshrined in Bill Pr13, which the government torpedoed and refused to accept. Sooner or later this government is going to have to wake up and accept that principle. In the meantime, however, we are prepared to give passage to this bill and to have it proceed to third reading and passage into law in order to protect a number of apartment units that, because of this government's abject negligence and irresponsibility, will be torn down, and torn down very quickly, unless this bill passes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I thank the honourable member. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: No, I am sorry. We are not ready for you.

Mr. Robinson: I want to speak to the bill. Do you want me to speak to it now or later?

The Acting Speaker: No, you will speak to it later. I am sorry.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, my words will be brief and, I hope, to the point. They will be brief because the member for Waterloo North, who is the critic for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and also the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) have spoken very eloquently on the theme of the need for affordable housing and the theme of security of tenure.

I do not think there is any question that we as the representatives of the official opposition, and also the third party, support the themes of affordable housing and security of tenure. That goes without saying.

I would like to add that our support is reluctant. We see this, as my colleague has mentioned, simply as a delaying tactic. But at this point I think we would all agree that half a loaf has to be better than nothing.

When I say this, I would like to reflect just for a moment or two on the long history of this bill with its various numbers. It has been in front of a variety of committees of this Legislature for something in the neighbourhood of three years. The member who first brought the bill in, a former city councillor and member for St.

George, was the original proponent of the bill. At that time we were not looking at a bill that would accommodate a 12-month period.

As a matter of fact, as late as the fall of 1983, when I was sitting on the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments—and, by the way, that is the committee that ended up with the bill, as it seems to be ending up with most, if not all, private bills now—that committee felt it was heading into a resolution of the issue. Then, at the 11th hour, the government came along and suggested it would not allow the bill to pass in its form at that time.

On the day that became known—I am afraid to admit this, but I guess there is no hiding the point—I blew my top, because it struck me that this was the government's intention from the beginning; and if this was the intention, why put the committee through the exercise of endless hours of debate and witnesses? I think we did a disservice to the city council here in Toronto and to the citizens who came to visit us in large numbers by creating the illusion of reason prevailing. It certainly came as a shock and a surprise to many of the concerned citizens, tenants and the members of council that this government would take this view.

Again, while we fall in line as members of the opposition by reluctantly supporting the bill, I think we have a duty and obligation to remind those who might be listening to this debate or those who might read this debate at some later time that there were considerable wrong impressions created over the long period this bill was in front of the legislative committee. I do not think that is right. If the government is going to be involved at all, it has a duty and an obligation to be up front with those people who come to it for some kind of consideration. In this instance I do not believe it was totally up front.

I would also like to point out that private member's Bill Pr53, presented by my colleague the member for Yorkview would bring about a better resolution to this issue of demolition. When I say that, I want to make members of the Legislature mindful of the fact that this particular problem of demolition is not being resolved and dispensed with through this bill. It will come back from time to time, as witness the last day of the committee meeting when we had representation from the city of Ottawa.

Ottawa sent one of its alderpersons to sit in on our meeting and to present the concerns of the Ottawa council to our committee. They did so because they too will be going through the same kind of legislative process some time within the

next year or two. It is very possible that other communities such as Ottawa will have the same need and come to us again.

I think we have to be mindful of these communities, of their needs and of their need to express through their actions, through their bylaws and through the actions of council what is their will. When we have the government stepping in and imposing itself, as it did in this instance, simply to allow a delaying tactic—and I say this because of the 12-month limitation in this bill—then I think we have a government that is not recognizing local autonomy totally but is interfering with it. I say these words as a caution to all who may sit in on future meetings dealing with this same theme.

Finally, I would again point out that we support this bill very reluctantly. As the member of our party who sat on this committee for the longest period of time, I submit that there is a need for the government, when it has bills like this, to be right up front with people who come to it for advice and support.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, there is a principle this government seems to live by, which is to backpedal and look as though it is going forward. That is what is happening on this bill, which the government has agreed to with reluctance and in a watered-down version of demolition controls that would be effective in protecting residential accommodation in the city of Toronto.

As my friend the member for Bellwoods pointed out, more than 1,000 units are on the block right now universally. The units that are going down, the units that are threatened with demolition by speculators and by developers, are units that provided solid, low-cost accommodation for people on modest incomes—perhaps not all of them, but that has universally been the case both in this city and also in the city of Ottawa where I come from.

What has been happening is that people have looked at properties and they have looked at what is called the highest and the best use. The highest and the best use in many cases consists of tearing down apartments that house pensioners, working families and people on modest incomes and putting up condominiums that are worth \$100,000 to \$250,000. They cater to an entirely different market, a market of people who presumably are pretty well capable of looking after their own needs.

There are condominiums standing empty by the hundreds in the city of Toronto right now, and yet these zealots of capitalism continue to seek to demolish whole buildings in the hope of making

profits for themselves at the expense of ordinary people.

3:50 p.m.

The tragedy of this bill is that even the limited protection it provides is concentrated only in the city of Toronto. My colleague the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) referred to Alderman Diane Holmes from the city of Ottawa, who represents a portion of my riding of Ottawa Centre.

As she pointed out to the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments, Ottawa has the same problems. We need the same kind of legislation as well, but because of the actions of this government, Ottawa is going to be compelled to fight this battle all over again; then London, Windsor, Hamilton and Peterborough. Slowly, over time, it may be possible to get this limited protection. Then Toronto or some other municipality will try to get a bit more. The government will once again drag its feet and come up with all kinds of reasons why it should not happen and tell the local municipalities why the bureaucrats and the politicians at Queen's Park know better than the people who are actually on the scene.

I recall speeches that have been made from time to time by the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) and the Premier (Mr. Davis) about the virtues of local autonomy. It seems, however, local autonomy is something the Conservatives believe in when it happens to be local autonomy for something they favour.

When the Conservative government does not favour something that people who are close to the housing situation, for example, are aware of locally, then it is no longer in favour of local autonomy. Instead, it is in favour of the rights of speculators and of the rights of profiteering developers over the rights of ordinary people to have decent shelter at a decent price and to continue to enjoy the rights to security of tenure it was intended they be given back in the 1970s in legislation passed in 1975.

As my colleagues have said, this legislation is better than nothing; nothing existed before. People in North York are currently experiencing, as people may have seen in the John Sewell columns this week, what it is like to have no protection at all. One can be turfed out of one's apartment in North York without even a demolition permit having been applied for. With no plan for redevelopment of a particular site, a developer can plan to put a parking lot on a piece of land where people are living right now. That will

be entirely legal, and it is happening right now. That on its own will not happen in the city of Toronto. The demolition permit will have to be sought and some small measure of delay will be achieved.

I point out to the parliamentary assistant and to the minister, if he ever gets around to reading this, which I doubt he will, the power to delay here is excruciatingly limited. First, it applies only to residential properties. Second, there must be more than six units on the property; so four-plexes, duplexes and houses are not protected from demolition by this legislation. Third, the coverage must exceed 50 per cent of the zoning for the delay to apply. If the coverage is less than 50 per cent of the allowable maximum in the zoning, then the developer has the same freedom that the developer has in the city of Toronto today.

That is a very limited set of reforms. As I said earlier, the tragedy is that this government allows that kind of thing to go forward at a snail's pace in an effort to contain, to fight fires, to keep things from getting too hot out there in terms of public anguish and public outcry over the situations we in this Legislature are permitting to occur, thanks to provincial legislation.

Rather than that, I wish we had some real leadership coming from the government; that there was a commitment, to begin with, that legislation made available to the city of Toronto would be made available to any other municipality in the province that sought it without the need for a private bill, without the need for \$10,000 in legal expenditures and without the need for a year of delay while the government weighs the pros and cons of giving to Ottawa or North Bay what in its wisdom it was prepared to give to Toronto.

I would like to see this coupled with a commitment to protect the affordable housing that exists right now. As my colleague pointed out, we are losing far more affordable housing by demolition and conversion these days than is being created by social housing policies, particularly the social housing policies coming from this government.

I would like the government to have a commitment to ensuring security of tenure is not just a slogan but a reality for tenants, as it was for a few years after 1975. Perhaps it is time—I believe it is time—we looked at security of tenure and rent control applying to buildings that have been built since 1975. In some cases those buildings are almost a decade old. It seems to me the people in those buildings should have the

protections we sought to bring into this Legislature nine or 10 years ago.

My colleagues have determined that we will support this bill. I do so reluctantly. I would ask, however, that what is good enough for Toronto should be extended to Ottawa. I would like the government to undertake today to bring in legislation in this Legislature that will ensure that, where a municipality such as Toronto has gained a few crumbs off the table from the Conservatives, at least those crumbs will be made available across the rest of the province rather than being denied.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I sat on the legislative committee that studied the new Planning Act for two or three years to get a revised Planning Act. The question of demolition control was certainly before us. In fact, the New Democratic Party members of that committee moved amendments that would have given demolition control to local governments.

That would have made Bill Pr3 or its predecessor Bill Pr17 unnecessary, but we could not move the government to recognize that local autonomy in that area is extremely important because only the local municipality is closely in touch with the housing situation and can see what is happening regarding the protection and maintenance of affordable housing, as opposed to the demands or requests of developers to redevelop land for higher-priced accommodation. Unfortunately, in those hearings, we were not able to move the government to the need for that kind of local autonomy.

I also sat on the committee that dealt with the various versions of Bill Pr3 over a period of two years. We saw before that committee a strong case made by the city of Toronto as to why it had to have demolition control if it was to prevent exacerbation of a very serious housing crisis.

We saw the city of Toronto make a strong case for the need to protect affordable housing from demolition. We saw great numbers of tenants come from buildings that were threatened with the possibility of being demolished to be replaced by much higher-priced accommodation. Those tenants were mainly senior citizens or people of modest incomes who had occupied apartments for many years. It was their homes that were about to be demolished if demolition control was not given to the city of Toronto.

I think those people convinced all committee members that there was a serious housing crisis in the city of Toronto. They convinced them they had a right to be allowed to continue with security of tenure as long as they were obeying the rules

under the Landlord and Tenant Act to maintain their apartments properly.

Those people would have been dehousing if the demolitions went through, particularly the people in the Eglinton-Bathurst area who came before us because they simply could not afford what would replace their housing; and with a vacancy rate of less than one per cent in the city of Toronto, where could they go? They were being dehousing and asked to double up with other people or perhaps to move out of the city to remote suburbs. Many of them did not have cars. Many were too old to learn to drive cars.

Those people were in danger of being dehousing. We saw their situation and the government members saw their situation. I think we felt a consensus was developing that they needed protection, but when it came time to vote for an amendment that would have allowed the city of Toronto to have demolition control, the parliamentary assistant to the minister came in and said the government was not prepared to go for what many committee members were asking, particularly on the NDP and the Liberal side.

4 p.m.

We have Bill Pr3 before us today in its second reading form. We do not think it answers the problem at all. Three hundred and sixty-five days of buying time to see whether either the tenants or the city can find the money to buy a unit is not adequate, particularly in view of the very straitened resources that municipalities are left with these days under the provincial government's reductions in municipal aid.

We feel that the government, which poses to care about people, is showing by this bill that it is completely uncaring of anybody but developers. Those people who came before us have a serious housing problem, and we are not giving them the protection they deserve.

The fact that the number of applications for demolition has gone up in the period while the bill has been under consideration indicates the worst fears of the city are being realized. There will be a great spate of applications for demolition permits, which will affect more affordable housing than the 1,448 units now standing in line for demolition permits.

I think this legislation is going to come back to haunt the government as an example of how the government does not care about housing for people of modest means, senior citizens or people who have lived in their homes for many years and expect some sort of protection.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has in-

dicated, this policy was fully debated two years ago when we discussed the new Planning Act and the pros and cons of demolition control.

As everyone knows, the Planning Act does give full power to any municipality to refuse a demolition permit unless and until a building permit is issued for a replacement building. All municipalities now have the power to refuse a demolition permit if its purpose is to demolish a building and leave it as vacant land or a parking lot.

The government made it very plain during those debates, as it has during this debate, that it does not favour open-ended demolition control when a permit has been issued for a new building. I say that in reply to the member for London North. The government has never been reluctant to indicate that was the policy.

This bill is not a government bill. This bill is not necessarily government policy. This bill is not the government's answer to any of the housing problems. This is a private act requested by the city Toronto. It is their bill, and not the government's bill.

Mr. McClellan: It is what you are prepared to—

Mr. Rotenberg: This is a bill requested by the city of Toronto. The government indicated quite openly it would not support the original bill requested by Toronto because it was felt, again as was stated in the debate on the Planning Act, that it did not conform to the policies.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: No one said it was a government bill, but the government supports it. In fact, the government put forth an amendment. To disassociate itself from this bill now is just lunacy. Why does the government not make the best of it, support the bill and get it through rather than making asinine statements that it is not government policy?

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Epp: I made my point anyway.

Mr. Rotenberg: There is no question the member for Waterloo North got his point in. However, it is still a fact that this is the city of Toronto's bill and not the government's bill.

The amendment put forward in the committee was put forward at the request of the city of Toronto, after a discussion with the government and as a compromise, knowing that was how they would get their bill through.

The bill in its present form is one the government finds not unreasonable; therefore, as

indicated, the government will not be opposing this bill.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say on behalf of my colleague the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) that if he were here, I am sure he would be pleased to have the support, albeit reluctant, of the parties opposite and their agreement to vote in favour of Bill Pr3.

What is in debate here is not the matter of affordable housing; it is the expected proficiency of this bill and whether it will have a meaningful effect in overcoming the problem the city of Toronto brought before us and identified for us and the extent to which it will be effective.

The solicitor for the city came before us with instructions to support the bill. He was not as pessimistic about its impact as some of the members opposite. Time will tell, as it will in all things.

I look forward to engaging in the debate in a couple of weeks' time when, as my friend the member for Waterloo North points out, there will be a private member's resolution before us on the same matter. We will have an opportunity when the bill comes before us for debate during private members' hour.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

House in committee of the whole.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL CORPORATIONS ACT

Consideration of Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), I understand from the House leaders for the two opposition parties and their critics that there is no further comment with regard to Bill 5 and that, accordingly, the bill can be reported at this time.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Chairman, the bill was returned to the committee of the whole stage in case there were any comments to be made. It is my understanding there are no further items to be discussed and, in so far as we are concerned, the bill may be carried in committee in its entirety.

Mr. Williams: As a matter of information, I would advise the critics for the two opposition parties, and the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) in particular, that letters have gone forward from the ministry as of yesterday to Deerhurst Investment Ltd., instructing it to

conform with the provisions of the act or further proceedings will have to be taken under the act.

Mr. Breithaupt: That was the corporation with the ownership of the property at 100 Wellesley Street. It was the example that caused the general interest in this bill by certain of us in the Legislature.

It would be appreciated if the parliamentary assistant might advise at least the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and myself, who were particularly interested in these themes, of the result in due course. He might choose to do that privately or otherwise, or to send both the correspondence sent by the ministry and the reply, or whatever a brief report on a page might be, so we would know how the matter is concluded. If he could accommodate us in that regard in the next several weeks, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Williams: The comments are taken as noted.

Sections 1 to 28, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

4:10 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

On section 1:

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): The member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) had the floor on his amendment to part IX, subsection 33(1).

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I want to continue speaking to the amendment, but before I do, I would like to clear the record. On Tuesday evening, May 1, in a rather heated debate on Bill 141, I outlined the excellent two-hour reporting back or debriefing done by the lobbyists from the Ontario Federation of Labour on Bill 141. I also said they taped some of the debriefing. This comment about the taping was not accurate and I regret any inconvenience it has caused the OFL or any members of this House.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Since the member for Hamilton East has clarified, I want to make absolutely sure the clarification regarding taping is extended to the period of time when some of us were interviewed. The member has clarified taping in so far as the debriefing is concerned, but there was also concern about taping at another part of

the day. I would ask your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, for the member for Hamilton East to add that clarification.

Mr. Mackenzie: Although unfortunately the comment about the debriefing was taken to be broader than that, there never was any suggestion that any members were taped. To the best of my knowledge, they were not. If they were, I certainly did not know it.

Let me turn to the amendment we have moved, which really gives some substance to the equal pay for work of equal value principle we are trying to establish; it is not only long overdue, as I have reported before in comments I made in this House, but also an issue whose time has come. I want to do two or three things in the few minutes remaining to me in this debate.

First, I want to go over some of the background information that was used in the lobby by members of the various women's groups and the Ontario Federation of Labour, because it outlines rather clearly why we need this change in this legislation the government has before the House.

While we are dealing with equal pay for work of equal value, in the background paper that is tied in almost totally with affirmative action, and there are a number of comments.

One comment relates to the fact that there are some 53,000 companies in Ontario. Since 1979, the affirmative action division of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has contacted more than 1,200 employees. To date, only 64 have agreed to utilize the services of the CEIC to develop an affirmative action program. In Ontario, the government has contacted 727 employers, and 244, excluding six crown agencies, have developed affirmative action strategies. I do not intend to go into them, but we have been raising questions in this House on many of those companies.

The strategies amount to nothing more than that a program is supposed to be in place, and many of the management people know nothing more about it than that. Because there are no legislated guidelines, as pointed out in the 1982 statement by the OFL on women and affirmative action, the activity entailed by a program can range from consciousness-raising seminars for managers to a comprehensive plan with goals and timetables. The majority of companies fall into the former category of consciousness-raising seminars.

CEIC comes closer than its Ontario counterpart. In respect to this government as an employer in the Ontario public sector—and the

source here is the 1982-83 report on the status of women crown employees—as of March 31, 1983, the total number of employees was 69,099, of whom 40,204 were men and 28,895 were women. Of these women, 20,453 were paid less than \$20,999, while 10,155 of the men were paid less than \$20,999; and 1,497 women were paid more than \$32,000, while 9,473 men were paid more than \$32,000.

The \$19,000 to \$20,999 range was the highest salary area in which women comprised more than 50 per cent of the work force; and \$32,000-plus was the highest category in which women were included.

The highest percentages of women by job category was 95.5 per cent in office services, 80.7 per cent in clerical services and 78.5 per cent in the clerical modules. The numbers of women in these categories were 6,485, 8,151 and 409.

In their report they look at the labour force by level of schooling in Ontario in 1982. It showed that at the zero to eight years of schooling level, 15.4 per cent of the men were in that category and 10.3 per cent of the women. At the high school level, 50.8 per cent were men and 55.7 per cent were women. Certainly, they had the educational standards.

With some post-secondary education, 9.6 per cent were men and 9.8 per cent were women; post-secondary or diploma, 10.5 per cent were men and 13.6 per cent were women. With university degrees, 13.8 per cent were men and 10.6 per cent were women. Only here do we get a lower percentage.

In the regulated apprenticeship programs, 1982-83—once again the source is the Ontario women's directorate, Women in the Labour Force, "Education," 1983—total enrolment was 7,182, including 417 women.

In 1982-83, 90.2 per cent of the women in apprenticeship training were in the service category, which includes traditionally female programs such as hairdresser and hairstyling. Although women represented 5.8 per cent of apprenticeship registrations from April 1982 to March 1983, if the low-wage service category is excluded, only 0.6 per cent of apprenticeships were female.

For women in Canada, the Earnings Canada 1980 report—also taken from statistics of the Ontario women's directorate—showed that women working full-time earned an average of 64.3 per cent of what men earned working full-time. The average annual work earnings

were \$13,788 for a woman working full-time and \$21,441 for a man.

For full-year workers—people who work 50 to 52 weeks of the year, whether full- or part-time—women earned 52.2 per cent of what men earned. The average annual earnings were \$8,863 for a woman working a full year and \$16,988 for a man.

The average annual income was \$13,910 for a female-headed family and \$25,397 for a male-headed family. Therefore, 36 per cent of all female-headed families were classified as low-income as compared to 10.4 per cent of all Canadian families.

I think these figures clearly indicate, and there is ample documentation of this and other problems, the fact that we have a long way to go. The progress has been exceedingly slow in terms of changing the standards and the levels and changing the differences that exist between male and female employees in Ontario. It seems to me there is a lesson to be learned by members of this House from the battle that has gone on over a lot of years.

4:20 p.m.

Starting with the coalition that got involved back in 1982, we had a brief from the Equal Pay Coalition to this government at the time we were holding hearings on equal pay legislation. They made the point in that brief that they opposed the government's consideration of a mandatory wage control program. That is now water under the dam, but it is an issue that has added to the inequitable differences between men and women.

In point B in their direct approach to the minister, they said the government's proposed composite test amendment to the present equal pay legislation in the Employment Standards Act is something that disturbs their members and they do not support it.

I do not want to cover the entire brief but I picked out a page or two that I thought was apropos. It simply says:

"If some of the committee members question the impatience of our demand for equal value legislation, you cannot know how long and hard we have fought for this legislation. The lobbying in Ontario started in earnest in the early 1970s. Since that time many organizations have met with a succession of Ontario Labour ministers, the Honourable Mr. Guindon, Miss Stephenson, Mr. Elgie and now Mr. Ramsay, but to no avail.

"In 1974 this same lobby appeared before a legislative committee debating amendments to the Employment Standards Act, the same act before you today, and urged an amendment to

allow equal pay for work of equal value. Instead, an amendment was passed which provided for comparisons of 'substantially' the same work and resulted in 'substantially' no effect.

"However, despite the fact it only confirmed a prior court interpretation of the equal pay section, it put Ontario into the forefront of equal pay legislation, a position it held until the passage of Quebec and federal equal pay legislation in 1975 and 1977, respectively.

"In 1976 our present coalition was formed within the context of increased discussion and pending federal legislative change. The coalition was formed in order to seek equal value legislation provincially and particularly in Ontario. Our coalition brought together diverse groups that are now united behind this issue as never before. Professional businesswomen joined union groups that joined community groups and legal organizations, all of which saw the importance of this issue to their members.

"Men were now joining women to seek this legislative change. In response to the Ontario government's discussion paper entitled 'Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value,' which was issued in the fall of 1976, our coalition organized a large public meeting in Toronto to question the provincial parties on their stand. More than 300 people vigorously challenged the government spokesperson, who felt Ontario was not yet quite ready for this change.

"Mounting public interest in the issue resulted in scores of requests from organizations throughout Ontario for coalition speakers on the subject. The coalition became involved in the production of several films, TV and radio programs and newspaper and magazine articles on the issue."

We can see a long campaign here and the buildup of that campaign.

"In 1977 the coalition held a seminar to discuss the implementation of equal value through legislation and collective bargaining. The papers which were given to this seminar were collected into a booklet entitled 'Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value,'..."—copies of which were passed on to the members back in those hearings.

"The widespread distribution of this booklet would be the envy of any Canadian publisher. The book has now gone through three printings and more than 2,500 copies have been distributed."

In 1977 the coalition picketed the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the then Minister of Labour, now the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), at the Royal York Hotel during the provincial election campaign. Obviously, they

did not get anywhere in that campaign. They held a press conference and lobbied the Canadian Human Rights Commission to protest the discriminatory effect of the Anti-Inflation Board on women's wages.

"In answer to these efforts, the government staged an equal pay/equal opportunity conference in January 1978 to again discuss the issues. This conference was attended by members of the coalition and other groups to drive home to the government our determination to accept nothing less than effective equal value legislation.

"Further, in 1978 we participated at the invitation of the Canadian Human Rights Commission in a session that explored what guidelines should be used by the commission in the interpretation of its 'equal pay for work of equal value' section.

"After meeting with Liberal and NDP caucuses in 1978 to discuss and obtain their support for 'equal pay for work of equal value,' we presented a brief to the Minister of Labour in December 1978 that again challenged the inequities of the present legislation and urged action. We were told by the Honourable Dr. Elgie that he was a new minister and would have to study the principle. Despite the positive and pragmatic approach of the federal government to the implementation of the legislation, the Ontario government continued to ignore the federal initiatives and research." And the lobbying that was done.

"On March 8, 1979, at our invitation, the leaders of the New Democratic Party and Liberal Party, along with the Minister of Labour, met on the steps of the Legislature to address an International Women's Day rally on their equal value policies. The government continued to stall."

I want to leave their summary, which goes on from there. Shortly after that, we first brought in Bill 3, which my colleague Ted Bounsall brought into this House.

I was going to cover a lot more territory, but I will not. I want to indicate that we have seen the maturing of this coalition. We know that 52 per cent of the voters in Ontario are women. We know, because I have been participating in a number of union schools and seminars in the last month and a half where this has been one of the issues discussed, there is a breaking down of some of the traditional resistance that was there even in some sectors of the trade union movement. We know it is no longer just a coalition of women's groups; an awful lot of other interested

parties have started to come on side with this particular issue.

We know, for example, referring to a piece in the Toronto Star just the other day, the Catholic bishops in their latest statement are urging job equality for women; and if all members of the House have not read it, I would advise them to take a look at that article, which I use simply to underline the growing understanding and acceptance of the need for equal pay for work of equal value.

I would point out to the members of this House that some of them, like me, may have come in for a few minutes during the student parliament here the other day. While I did not ask for the figures, I am quoting now strictly from a newspaper report, which said 58 of 125 members were women.

It would seem to me, and I would appeal to government members that this must give them some cause for thought, it is not just the growing strength of the coalition, nor is it the understanding of a large number of people beyond the coalition, but the fact that some of our young people, whatever the selection process was for members of this House for that student parliament, certainly came up with numbers that are beginning to approach equality between men and women in this province of ours.

Why our amendment, once again? As I say, I had intended to put on the record again some of the comments or opposition raised to Bill 3 in what was probably one of the better debates in this House on the equal pay issue back in May 1979, but I am not going to do that. I am going to put on the record only two paragraphs. There are more damning paragraphs I could put on the record, but I am referring now to the then Minister of Labour, on page 2024 of the Hansard of May 17, 1979, in an exchange he was having with my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). The final paragraph in that little exchange has the minister saying:

"As I attempted to indicate, we are still looking for satisfactory answers. This is not to say that answers do not exist. The ministry discussion paper dealt with the experience of other jurisdictions, including the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, France and the Netherlands." There is a comment, which I will not put into the record, by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

4:30 p.m.

On the next page, in the final paragraph the minister is referring to the member for Bell-

woods—I think the member for Sudbury East had interjected—when he says:

“I assure him and other interested parties that the concept is not dead in this minister’s mind, and I reiterate that. Let me assure him there is no more vocal spokesman about the issue of inequities facing women in the work place than this minister.”

I do not doubt that there is a commitment on the part of most members across the way, eventually or somewhere down the road. The point I am making is that the answers we were getting in May 1979 clearly indicated we had not yet found the answers; we had to look at it; our minds were not closed. Yet we have before us once again a bill that totally skirts the issue. It is a little more discouraging than that; it deliberately throws in a couple of small goodies, which if they were separated all of us could support with no difficulty whatsoever, in an effort to get members of this House to support, perhaps unanimously, what the government has done.

What the government has done does not deal with that issue of equal pay for work of equal value. It is an end run, an attempt to once again stall and not deal with the issue.

It seems to me that all the nice, good or kind words in the world do not mean a darned thing if they are not backed up with some positive action. For that reason we have moved this amendment. For that reason we are telling the government we cannot support the bill as it stands. For that reason we are hoping some of the members in this House will have second thoughts about the bill or maybe even withdraw it until they have had a chance to see what can be done.

I do not know whether that is a possibility. I suspect the pressure and the heat in terms of equal pay for work of equal value are going to accelerate over the next year or two, and the government probably will not want it on the agenda any closer to an election. Maybe they will wait until after another election if they do not decide to go through with it now. I feel strongly that the issue should be resolved now. Members of this House should stand and be counted.

Although it seems to be part of the way this government does things, I resent being offered a bill that has a couple of nice little things in it to try to get us to swallow a bitter pill. It makes me wonder what will happen when we are dealing with whatever comes out in terms of workers’ compensation before this session ends, and I suspect it will not be very much. If there is going to be another little five per cent increase in pensions for injured workers, who certainly need

a heck of a lot more than that, I wonder whether we will not find that little five per cent increase in pensions tied into some regressive move in terms of Workers’ Compensation Act amendments.

Pardon my cynicism, but I would not be surprised if that were the kind of approach we got from this government. It is exactly what we have in terms of Bill 141.

I urge members of the House to support the amendment we have moved. We could probably make a deal with the government and support most of the amendments very quickly if it would support the amendment we have moved in this House.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, in replying to the honourable member, I would like to reflect very briefly on a few of the points we made last week.

I know the member was here for the debate, but I want to repeat at the outset the commitment of our ministry and our government to achieving equality for women in the work place and our belief that what we are doing in Bill 141 will contribute towards that goal and towards the closing of the wage gap.

The New Democratic Party amendment proposes a slightly different approach from the one we contemplate. I want to be honest and up front with the member at the outset by telling him it is not the intention of the government to support the amendment.

I would like to speak for a few moments about the role and the record of the government in terms of dealing with its own employees within the public service, some of the strides we have made, and then to make a few comments on the amendment we have before us.

The member for Hamilton East (Mr. MacKenzie) made reference to the continuing wage gap in the public sector with the provincial employees. That is a situation we recognize and, while I am going to speak briefly about some of the improvements that have been made in that situation, I want to assure the member, and I know this has been said by my minister in the House and by the Minister responsible for Women’s Issues (Mr. Welch), we are not yet satisfied with that situation and we will be continuing to strive for an improvement and a closing of the wage gap as it exists in our public service.

However, I think it well to point out and to reflect that in 1980 Ontario became the first Canadian jurisdiction to introduce numerical planning targets for the hiring and promotion of qualified women to areas where they are underrepresented.

The results of this program have been very encouraging. Women's salaries in the provincial public sector now average 76 per cent of those of their male counterparts. As we reflect on the overall situation in the work force, that compares with 63 per cent in the work force as a whole. We are doing much better than seems to be the case with many other sectors of the economy.

We are not yet satisfied with that; I want to repeat that again. We are going to continue to strive for improvement.

The number of women in the government's administrative module has risen. That is the group in management positions and being fed into management positions. In 1978, about 17.9 per cent of the candidates in those categories were women. That is now up to 30 per cent, which was the target set for the year 2000 back in 1980. In that area we feel we are well ahead of the stage where we thought we would be in 1984.

The women's directorate is working in co-operation with many companies, schools, universities and municipalities, urging them to establish their own affirmative action programs. To date, 244 major employers have worked with the women's directorate under the ministry and under the direction of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues to implement a variety of affirmative action programs. That is an effort we want to see increased and we will be working towards that. We are very encouraged.

I hope some members saw in the January 13 edition of *Topical*, which I know we all get in our offices, an article by Signe Ball talking about the record in the last year. I was encouraged to see that in fiscal year 1982-83 we saw the greatest decrease yet in the wage gap for women public servants. In that fiscal year the wage gap closed by 2.2 per cent. As of March 31, 1983, the average salary of a woman in the civil service was \$20,422 or, as I said earlier, about 75.8 per cent of the average salary of a man. That was an improvement of 2.2 per cent over the previous year.

We feel the goal we are striving towards is being achieved, especially when we reflect on Professor Gunderson's study suggesting that equal value legislation overall would not account for more than seven or eight per cent. We have closed that gap under our existing legislation quite convincingly.

I want to make another point because reference was made by the honourable member to the federal legislation and the direction in which the federal government moved in the last couple of years. We feel a lot of the success of the various

programs, whether it be equal value, modified equal value, equal work or what have you, is dependent on the enforcement and the mechanics that are applied. All the data we have in the ministry indicate that our existing program is much more successful than the federal program, as implemented, in dealing with equal work and equal value types of complaints.

We see this improving substantially with the introduction of Bill 141, especially when, I remind the member, there will be quite an increase in complement in the employment standards branch of the ministry to deal with these complaints: five more officers and the support staff required to pursue the various complaints.

4:40 p.m.

I thought the member might be interested in hearing some of the figures in this area. Between March 1980 and March 1984, our ministry received 502 complaints; 443 of these files were completed during that period, which left 21 that were cancelled and 38 that remain outstanding as we speak. Another 244 files were opened by routine audit—in other words, our people went out on a routine basis checking in on companies and other employers, even in the absence of a complaint—and 234 of these were completed during that same four-year period.

Of the total 150 violations that were found, nearly 2,000 employees benefited from arrears assessed, and 2,000 employees benefited from annual pay increases. About 60 per cent of these violations are estimated to have occurred in private sector establishments.

This, I think, is very telling. Compared to the federal equal value legislation, Ontario's current equal pay legislation has been almost 10 times as successful in reviewing complaints. We have reviewed 10 times as many complaints in four years and we have established 16 times as many violations as has the federal legislation in place in that same period.

Mr. Wrye: You cover a few more employees too, don't you.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Gillies: Regardless of the approaches the various governments have opted for, it would appear that the enforcement of our legislation is much more vigorous and much more effective than the federal legislation has been.

Mr. Wrye: Selective facts.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: Speaking to the New Democratic Party amendment itself, there are several points

in the amendment that I am sure the honourable member knows are in our legislation in other clauses. For instance, subsection 33(5) of the member's amendment is found in clause 33(2)(d) of our bill. There are several things in there that I can hardly criticize because they are in our bill, but I would like to highlight a few problem areas we see and to explain to honourable members why it is not the intention of the ministry or the government to support this amendment.

First, subsection 33(3) troubles us somewhat, as this subsection specifies the criteria for determining equal pay for work of equal value and does not, as far as we can see, require substantial equivalence between similar jobs with respect to the four relevant criteria. It is a one-stage process in terms of looking at the composite test, as opposed to the two-stage process we contemplate in our legislation.

Any complaint going to the employment standards branch under our version of Bill 141 will be reviewed first on the basis of a one-on-one comparison of the four criteria—the working conditions, responsibility, skill and effort—as is done now under our existing equal pay legislation. Then, if it is required for a proper adjudication of the case, it will be reviewed under the composite test. Employees being reviewed under our legislation have two cracks at it and, of course, then there is the opportunity for appeal—

Mr. Wrye: We would just like to give them a third.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Gillies: The opportunity for appeal, quite right. They have two cracks under our legislation, to be adjudicated either under the four individual criteria or under the composite test. We feel this provides some backup, some ability to manoeuvre that may not be found under subsection 33(3) of the amendment before us.

Subsection 33(4), talking about the definition of an establishment for the purpose of the act, bothers us somewhat in that we feel it is somewhat inflexible. I would like to talk about this just for a few minutes because it is very important. I want to explain what our employment standards branch is doing now and will be doing under the legislation.

The provision in the amendment deems separate establishments that have been established solely or principally for the purpose of paying different wages to male and female employees to be a single establishment in order that the requirement to pay equal pay for work of equal value will apply.

This subsection appears to be based on the misapprehension that the employment standards branch currently treats different physical locations as different establishments, making the equal pay provisions inapplicable. I think this is a very serious misapprehension. It is not the case in our view.

The employment standards branch has developed administrative guidelines for use in determining the identity of the employer's establishment in cases where the employer carries on business at two or more facilities. They look at this very carefully. They look at seniority, bumping provisions, the interchangeability of staff, the distance between the two establishments and all these things.

In his comments on January 11, the minister indicated to members of the committee that the approach taken under the Canadian Human Rights Act, whereby all the facilities of an employer's business which are located within a single municipality constitute a single establishment, suffers from the disadvantage of being inflexible.

We feel the work being done within the employment standards branch, enhanced as it will be by the increased complement and the increased capacity to investigate these complaints, is superior, more flexible and gives the employment standards officer more of an opportunity to work out something that will benefit the affected employees.

I have no criticism of subsections 33(5) and 33(6) as they are found elsewhere in Bill 141. In passing our legislation unamended, members are supporting the intent of subsections 33(5) and 33(6) found in the member's amendment. Subsections 33(7) and 33(8) relate to the filing and handling of complaints. We feel it is inappropriate that these provisions should be found here because members will find many of the same provisions in part IX of our bill. They are dealt with very appropriately there.

Briefly, on the question of bringing a class action, as contemplated under the amendment, members are aware of the review being done by the Ministry of the Attorney General which follows the release of the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission in this area. So there is work being done in determining the applicability of class actions in this type of complaint.

In any event, I would want the honourable member to know that under our legislation the employment standards branch will accept a complaint by a union on behalf of certain employees and it will also perform audits at the

request of a union. If the branch is notified now or under Bill 141 of a potential equal pay violation, it may do an audit and resolve any contraventions that may arise. The workers' representatives in the organized sector of the economy can vigorously pursue a complaint on behalf of those employees. I suppose in some respects we might almost call it a class action.

Provisions under these subsections also appear to provide for a full right of employee appeal. At present the act provides for an appeal of an order of the employment standards officer, whereas the employee is only entitled to a review by a second officer unless the director of the employment standards branch is convinced a hearing before a referee is required.

The minister has stated—and I will repeat it here—that the issue of the employee's right of appeal is under review at the present time. It is certainly our intent, now stated twice, to have a full and proper review procedure under our legislation. Indeed, we do not see how the legislation could be very effective without it. We know it is part and parcel of what we are doing.

As I said earlier, where we disagree with the amendment with regard to subsections 33(1) and 33(2) is in the comparison of dissimilar work as opposed to similar work. We talked about that at some length last week, so I do not propose to repeat those arguments here.

Again, I would remind members that subsection 33(5) is contained in our bill. The provision that the employer shall not reduce pay as a result of complying is in our bill.

Three or four of the clauses in the New Democratic Party amendment are contained in our legislation. We cannot agree with several others. On balance, we have found it necessary to oppose the amendment.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, you will recall that last Tuesday we debated an amendment put forward by myself on behalf of the Ontario Liberal caucus which transformed Bill 141—significantly, I should say—into a bill that would provide equal pay for work of equal value. We had many hours of debate. As I recall, the debate started shortly before four o'clock and ended at 10:30 that evening.

At that time, we were not quite sure whether or not we would be receiving support from the New Democratic Party. However, after they consulted among themselves, the NDP members decided they would support our amendment to change significantly the government bill before us. What we have heard today from the mover of this new

amendment put forward by the NDP is somewhat similar to what we heard last Tuesday.

I do not intend to try to play politics with this particular amendment, as the NDP did last Tuesday. I agree entirely with what the parliamentary assistant has had to say, that is, some parts of the amendment put forward by the NDP are already contained in the government bill. It really does not bring anything forward that is considered new or different in those particular areas.

The basic difference we have here today is the same basic difference we had last Tuesday. We have asked the government to live up to its promise and to stand behind the vote that took place on the resolution put forward by the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps). We have asked the government to live by what it said it would do, namely, to enshrine equal pay for work of equal value.

The government has decided, unfortunately, to vote one way only when the galleries are full and there is a great deal of media attention on a particular issue. At present it has decided not to carry forward the commitment it made on that particular Thursday during private members' hour.

As I recall it, a vast majority of the Conservative caucus was here on that particular Thursday. The members were in favour of the resolution put forward by the member for Hamilton Centre. They cannot say at this time that a cabinet decision is preventing them from moving forward because the cabinet was in favour of the resolution also.

We find ourselves in a position of accepting again and watching again—and this is not something new—the government saying one thing, promising the people one thing when there is media attention on a particular issue—

Mr. Cassidy: Like the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies).

Mr. Mancini: Yes, I have to agree with the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy)—like the member for Brantford. He was here on that particular Thursday. He rose and supported the resolution put forward by the member for Hamilton Centre; yet today he makes statements about why we do not need what he supported some months ago. He tried to make a comparison—a very unfair comparison I may say—between what is happening in Ottawa and in Ontario.

It never ceases to amaze me why—and it does not matter what the issue is—this particular government feels it is always necessary to bring

the Ottawa government into the debate. As far as I am concerned, the government of Canada in many respects has done a far better job of governing the country than this government has done of governing the province.

Mr. Kerrio: Right on.

Mr. Gillies: I did not bring up Ottawa.

Mr. Kerrio: Except for the few months you guys were in power down there.

Mr. Wrye: It has taken four years to recover from the mess you created.

Mr. Mancini: Joe Clark was in office for nine months and it has taken us four years to recover.

Mr. Kerrio: We have not recovered from that yet.

Mr. Mancini: We are still trying to recover.

I say to the parliamentary assistant that I hope he does not take my criticism personally, even though I did personally mention him. It is somewhat frustrating and offensive to have the government stand up en masse and give an indication to all the people of Ontario that it truly believes in a principle and then come forward—

Mr. Breaugh: Watch it, Remo. Put some substance into your speech.

Mr. Mancini: I always enjoy interjections from my friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh). We have always got along well.

The government has a chance to enshrine the principle of equal pay for work of equal value with support from all members of the House. It is not an issue that would be divisive. It is an issue on which the government could count on support from all parties and from all members of the House. It is rather sad and unfortunate that we are not taking the initiative. The parliamentary system is slow. It gives few opportunities to make changes to present laws because of the complexity of government and the number of issues that always face the government and the Legislature. It is sad to have an opportunity and not use it.

I will conclude by saying that we support the amendment put forward by the New Democratic Party. Some of these amendments are already contained in the government bill. The amendments that are not contained in the government bill refer directly to enshrining the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in this legislation, which is exactly what the amendment I put forward last week did on behalf of the Ontario Liberal Party. We see no problem in supporting the amendment.

At the same time, I see no hope of the government changing its position. When we

were debating the resolution put forward by the member for Hamilton Centre, the government should have given more thought to the situation before it stood up and voted en masse for something it is now apparent it truly does not believe in.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment put forward by my colleague the member for Hamilton East. I will not be quite as generous to the parliamentary assistant as the former speaker was with regard to whether he should take things personally because I am absolutely appalled at the lack of information the parliamentary assistant has displayed here in this House during the course of the debate.

5 p.m.

I sat and listened with great disgust last Tuesday to his comments during the course of the debate on the Liberal amendment. I would like to point out to the parliamentary assistant that we had a piece of legislation in 1979, Bill 3, which a number of speakers have referred to. That bill passed second reading and went to committee for hearings that were much more extensive than the recent hearings on this bill.

I would like to point out to the parliamentary assistant that during the course of those hearings we heard from dozens of groups: women's groups, labour groups, students' groups, industry associations and specific individual industries. We had a very wide range of public input into that very extensive set of hearings.

It irked me greatly to hear the parliamentary assistant stand up here last Tuesday and throw out the scare tactics by implying that equal value legislation may cause some economic disruption out there and, perhaps, even throw some women in this province out of work.

If the parliamentary assistant is going to handle legislation like this, he should take the time to find out what industry people in this province said in that committee in January 1980 in response to those very same questions. The reality is that 75 per cent or 80 per cent of the industry people told us that although it may cause them some hardship, they did not see the prospect of layoffs as a result of equal value legislation.

We even heard from a couple of companies that happened to be crown corporations. They, because of the federal legislation, have already gone into the process of job evaluation to reach the goal of equal value. They discussed with us the very limited economic impact on them, while

at the same time there were some very substantial gains for employees.

I would like to make that the second issue I will speak to.

The parliamentary assistant also raised the issue of the lack of results from both the federal and the Quebec legislation. He seems to be of the belief that the only results that come from that legislation happen at the federal commission as a result of complaints. He does not seem to understand that a large sector of the federal public service—the union representing the employees, the ministry, the crown corporations, or whatever the situation happens to be—sat down and negotiated a job evaluation system which they both agreed to. Then they set into the process of doing evaluations on their own. There have been a substantial number of successes.

I relate, not only for the parliamentary assistant but also for the information of the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), the impact in terms of the debate on five per cent or 10 per cent. There is the impact at de Havilland, where women received increases ranging from seven per cent to about 12 per cent. The majority of women received increases in the higher end of that range. In the experiences we have to look at in the Canadian context, five per cent is definitely a low experience.

During the course of those hearings on Bill 3, we heard from a number of specific industry groups in the province as well as, in most cases, the trade unions. In a few cases, there were groups of unorganized employees who represented those industries as well.

In every instance where we had both a trade union or group of employees as well as employers from an industry where the employers initially made claims of financial hardship and job loss, when the employers were put on the spot in the presence of their employees who questioned around the number of dollars they talked about and the overall impact in terms of layoffs, inevitably they backed right off the argument altogether.

As I suggested earlier, I wish the parliamentary assistant would take the time to inform himself in a factual way of what employers said and the positions they ended up taking in their final analysis of the potential for economic hardship and for job loss. He should stop throwing out innuendoes such as those in the course of this debate both now and in the future. They are cop-out arguments. They are the same arguments this government used in the 1950s for minimum wages in this province.

The last time we in this House debated a move for an increase in the minimum wage, one of the members—I cannot recall who it was—read from Hansard some government comments on the very same issue of a proposed increase of the minimum wage in the mid-1960s. Surprisingly, the comments around the updating of that piece of legislation sounded virtually identical to the comments we get on the question of equal value.

The reality is that the government's arguments were wrong when it came to the minimum wage; they did not prove to be valid at all. The same is true when it comes to the question of equal value. The government likes to use innuendo as a scare tactic in terms of the potential for economic chaos, but it has nothing on which it can substantiate that potential claim.

We have had so many discussions on this issue here that have said basically the same things that it becomes very frustrating. There is our amendment here today, the Liberal amendment last week, the bill last fall, the resolution last fall, my bill in November 1980, Mr. Bounsall's bill in 1979 and God knows how many bills on other occasions.

The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) said it in the wrapup to his comments a few minutes ago: "The government may profess to support the principle of equal value, but its demonstrations do not substantiate that."

The government has basically talked in terms of supporting the principle that we are aware of here in the Legislature since 1979 when its members stood up to support Bill 3 on second reading. It has done absolutely nothing to fulfil the promises it made in 1979 and 1980 during the committee portion of Bill 3. It has done absolutely nothing in terms of research or studies to answer the questions it continually raises or poses as potential roadblocks to implementation of equal value in Ontario. We sit here in Ontario while the rest of the industrialized world, albeit slowly, moves past us and ahead of us in this area.

I should point out as well to the parliamentary assistant that virtually everybody who came before our committee in January 1979 was of the opinion that even if we passed equal value legislation, it would take a good eight, 10 or 12 years before the full extent of the impact of that kind of legislation would be seen.

5:10 p.m.

I would assume from that and from the things the parliamentary assistant has said that means this government is not going to be prepared to move until the full impact and the full extent of

equal value legislation in other jurisdictions is available in extensive studies for their perusal.

I just cannot accept this approach in this area of our endeavours in this Legislature on the Employment Standards Act. Again, I do not want to take the time of this House to go through the great piles of evidence I have here before me which were presented to the committee in January 1979. We had literally thousands of cases of discrimination described and detailed to us. They are all there for the perusal of the parliamentary assistant, the minister, the Premier and others in the government.

However, as the member for Essex South has said, it has become very clear that there is no commitment to the principle of equal value. If there were any commitment to the principle of equal value, this government would not spend all its time responding only to opposition initiatives; it would spend some of its time looking for ways to make an equal value system work in Ontario in combination with affirmative action programs.

They cannot even get their act together in terms of making an honest commitment to affirmative action. They keep talking about nonexistent voluntary programs that are supposed to be in place all across the province. As well, it is very clear that not only does the government not have any real commitment to equal value in this province but also that the people of this province are going to continue to be faced with the comment from this government: "Do not give us your self-righteous response. We are just as concerned as you are."

This government can go on sounding off its concerns for as long as it wants. Ultimately this government will be judged, not by the concerns it claims to express and feel but by the actions they take. Women in this province will judge this government, not by the comments they make but by their successes in reducing the discrimination and the wage gap differentials that exist in this province. Their successes have been dismal.

Again, I do not want to take up the time of the House to detail all the evidence we received in the committee in 1980. However, just for a moment or two, I would like to talk about the kinds of groups that made presentations to us, so the parliamentary assistant perhaps can begin to understand the extent of the research that has been done on this topic in the real world with real industries and real working people.

Including all the women's groups, we had such groups in front of our committee as the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario. We even had an old favourite of the

government doing research for the committee, an old favourite company the government uses quite frequently in its studies of other things, Touche Ross and Co. We found some very interesting things, and it might do for the parliamentary assistant to read their report to the committee as well, because there are some interesting facts in that one.

We had presentations from the Retail Council of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, universities and university staff associations. We had a couple of analytical studies, which the parliamentary assistant might want to take the time to look through, on the progress of equal value in some European jurisdictions. Although these studies are a little dated now, they are particularly useful and interesting. The Europeans were much further ahead in 1976-77 than we are now in dealing with the sorts of problems that confront us and, I might add, without any resulting economic catastrophe.

We had presentations from student groups. In most cases the students are not working full time yet, but even in their summer employment they have to suffer through very serious wage discrimination—a double discrimination because the student aid programs in Ontario do not take into account the differential between women's wages and men's wages.

The student aid programs all make an assumption about how much these students are going to earn on average. Unfortunately, as happens to their counterparts in the full-time work force, the female students get left out in the cold because they do not achieve the assumed goals of summer income. Therefore they come substantially short of their target in savings and hence short in their ability with respect to returning to school the next year.

Discrimination is rather broad. It finds its way into almost every avenue of life. Another study the committee looked at was a paper prepared for a conference held in 1978 on equal pay and equal opportunity policy for women in Europe, Canada and the United States. It looked at equal pay and equal opportunity in Sweden and Germany. There are some interesting facts for the parliamentary assistant there as well, facts that generally dispute and quite effectively shoot down some of the comments he has made.

We also had the Ontario Trucking Association, the textile industry and the auto industry before our committee. I am talking about employers now, not unions, because I think members are aware that virtually all the major unions in Ontario came in. In every case, under

questioning those companies were hard pressed to say equal value legislation in Ontario would push them into a position of having to lay people off.

I recall specifically when we had General Motors before us, one of the representatives was off on a tangent about supply and demand in the labour market and how equal value would disrupt the general supply and demand levelling that happens in the marketplace. He went on to describe how we had a very severe shortage of certain skilled trades people in Ontario and how industry had to be in a position to offer substantially higher wages to attract the people it requires in the trade in which there is a dramatic shortage. His comments were very interesting.

5:20 p.m.

When we asked him why, after 10 full years of a severe shortage of tool and die makers in the province, the relative wage for tool and die makers at General Motors had not changed in relation to the other trades where there were no shortages, he said, "I am not sure why that has happened." The company was trying to make a case, saying it was not making the comment based on sex, that it had to be in a position to offer substantially higher wages in some cases in order to attract people, yet the reality showed that in its master contract with the United Auto Workers it does not do that at all.

They may do it with a couple of senior management positions when they are in trouble and they have to bring in a Lee Iaccoca to fix the bucket, but a labour market in terms of supply and demand has not and does not work. It has not done so for a long time. All the statistics we looked at in committee substantiated that. We looked at supply and demand statistics in about 10 categories of employment during the committee hearings. In no instance was there any substantial difference as a result of shortages of supplies of skilled workers in a particular field.

Because government members continue to use arguments that have long since been debunked, it is clear to all of us that in spite of their words they have no intention of taking any serious action that will in any way substantially reduce wage differentials between men and women in this province. They are not prepared even to sit down in an honest way and evaluate the federal and Quebec legislation by looking at all the results that have been achieved through that legislation.

For example, the parliamentary assistant may want to look at the results at de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. as a result of the negotiations that went on there freely. They did not take place

through the complaint process, but were carried out freely between the union and the company. Wage adjustments were made in that company as a result of the federal legislation. I do not have all the up-to-date facts and figures here. I have the figures from the committee that are now five years old.

Government members should have a look at those figures. They should do an honest evaluation of the successes of the federal legislation. They should not come in here and tell us about how many complaints have been made and the few that have been resolved through a complaint process. They should come in here and give us an honest evaluation of all that has occurred as a result of the federal legislation and the net overall gains women have made as a result.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak in favour of the amendment for equal pay for work of equal value. I think it deserves serious consideration. It is an amendment which would not work against anyone, because no employer is allowed to reduce the rate of pay for an employee in order to comply with it.

In January 1980 when the Ontario Status of Women Council, supported by the Progressive Conservative Women of Ontario, appeared before the standing committee on general government studying Bill 3, an equal pay for work of equal value amendment to the Employment Standards Act, the council president Lynne Gordon made a number of significant comments on the position of women in the Ontario work place and on the equal pay for work of equal value bill in particular.

The council was the first witness to appear before the committee and Ms. Gordon began by saying:

"As we enter the decade of the 1980s, we believe that employment-related issues such as equal pay for work of equal value, day care and pensions will be among the most critical for women. For as women's work provides them with income during their working years, so that same work provides them with a pension which is tied to their lifetime earnings.

"To the extent that we penalize women by undervaluing their work, we must not forget that the penalty continues throughout their pensioned life."

On Friday I had an opportunity, as I often do in my riding, to meet with the seniors' club at one of the socials, and I was struck by how many women and how few men there were in that group. One cannot ignore the demographic realities. You see, when you talk to these people,

how many of them are scraping by on so little income, and yet part of the reason they are in that position is the discrimination that has gone on not just in retirement but throughout their lives and is carried over into the retirement years as a result of this kind of discrimination.

Ms. Gordon went on to cite many of the updated statistics, and of these data she had this to say:

"The situation described by the statistics has persisted and worsened despite enforcement of Ontario's existing legislation on equal pay for substantially the same work; enforcement of sex discrimination provisions of the Human Rights Code; in spite of various nonlegislative actions of government agencies, including voluntary affirmative action, advertising and information dissemination aimed at changing attitudes that foster discrimination...None the less, these policies have not been effective in reducing wage disparities. The limitation we believe is in the policies themselves, not in the way they have been implemented."

In March 1980 the then Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) also appeared before that committee. When asked about the enforcement of the current provisions for equal pay for substantially the same kind of work, he said, "I started looking into the question of equal pay because the amounts that had been recovered and the number of claims seemed inordinately small and it was apparent that enforcement was a problem."

Indeed there was a problem. In 1979-80, only 37 women received compensation under the province's equal pay legislation. In 1980-81 this number went up to 391 out of almost two million working women in Ontario.

On the same occasion the Minister of Labour also stated that whereas he was in support of the concept in principle, he had a number of concerns about its workability. He said: "Equal value, I have said quite openly, as a principle of equity is appealing"—I do not know anybody it would not appeal to. It is a sound concept—"but the problem is in applying it."

On the other hand, a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada has taken exactly the opposite position. The Honourable Madam Justice Bertha Wilson of the Supreme Court of Canada, writing recently in the *Manitoba Journal of Law*, stated: "The concept of 'equal work' proved too hard to administer. It was easy to get around it by adding some distinctive task to the male employees. It was also unworkable in large areas of the work force serviced exclusively by women." In which there were no male counterparts. "None the less,

the concept permits a broader comparison of functions and seems to be more efficient."

In other words, the concept of equal pay for work of equal value permits a broader comparison of job functions and seems to be more efficient. So here we have a direct contradiction to the bogymen this government sees in this concept.

Questioned further regarding the federal and Quebec experience, the then Minister of Labour said he would be prepared to review it and he would be prepared to keep an open mind to the fact that there seems to be evidence coming out of Quebec that equal pay for work of equal value is working.

5:30 p.m.

Major developments have taken place since that commitment. In December 1980, 470 Canadian government librarians, 66 per cent of them women, won \$2.3 million in an equal pay for work of equal value settlement. The Canadian Human Rights Commission found that the librarians did work that was of equal value to that done by historical researchers, most of whom were male. The Treasury Board agreed to provide equalization adjustments ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 annually, together with back pay up to \$5,900. The decision was retroactive to March 1, 1978, and also benefited librarians who had retired or resigned since that date.

In March 1982, the Treasury Board again awarded 3,300 low-paid public servants a settlement of \$17 million after the Canadian Human Rights Commission ruled workers, mostly female, involved in food, laundry and miscellaneous services did work of equal value to that done by warehouse workers who were mostly male. The pay was made retroactive to November 1978, a year prior to the official complaint.

As the sums of money indicate, these are decisions of great importance to both the people involved and to other jurisdictions addressing this thorny problem. It shows we can evaluate and make rational and reasonable decisions about what appears to be a great injustice in the system and a discrimination against women. If the federal government in federal jurisdictions can make those decisions, far be it from me or any of us to say the provincial government cannot act in a similar way or that our people cannot make similar rational and reasonable decisions.

We are talking about a historical process, particularly when we are talking about human rights legislation, and I see this as human rights legislation. As a social evolutionist, I believe we

constantly have to push forward the progress mankind is making.

When we look at the Ontario economy in a historical process, we can see there is a gradual evolution of the role of women in the Ontario economy. When the Ontario economy was primarily an agricultural one during the early years of the 19th century, women toiled on the farms as their farmer husbands did. They looked after livestock and gardens and worked in the fields. They picked and preserved the produce of the farm. They spun the yarn and made cloth and clothing. They made the meals.

In addition, the care of the family's children was substantially the responsibility of the wife. Indeed, the bearing of children was a significant activity since children were needed to work in the complex of the farm and the agricommunity.

Adult women who were not married fitted into the social and economic patterns of early Ontario with difficulty. Some found employment as teachers, but for the vast majority of women marriage was an economic necessity. The women who did not labour on farms and who did not belong to the aristocratic or capitalist class, worked as servants for the aristocrats and capitalists. Their hours were long and their pay low. If fired from their position, they found themselves in a dire situation in the slum areas of the city.

Gradually, we evolved labour laws that remedied at least some of those situations. During the mid-19th century the province began to adopt the changes wrought by the industrial revolution. More women began to move into the working class that was being created to meet the needs of production. They were married to urban labourers and worked as washerwomen, menials and piece workers in the worst sweat shops of the industrial capitalist work place. In addition, they were responsible for running the household and for the bearing and rearing of children.

The industrial revolution also gave women an opportunity to move into a new work place. It is that new work place we are dealing with in this amendment. With their new role, they encountered great antagonism from male workers and also from male industrialists who objected to the hiring of women and the paying of equal salaries. The solution that was arrived at is still in existence today. It is job ghettos and we still have job ghettos in Ontario. Although the appeals against the employment of women failed, they managed to pay women less by separating their functions and by paying for those jobs at a lesser salary than those of their male counterparts.

During the 20th century, changes other than the transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy affected the lives of working women. Despite the attempts of Ryerson in the mid-1860s to prevent female students from attending grammar schools, women were getting better educated. Most important, progress in the health care available freed them to enter in an equal way in an attempt for equality in the work place. Yet, when we look at the statistics, we see that we still have the kind of segregation which discriminates against them.

Industrial economies have been built on a myth that has constantly undervalued the work of women and it seems our society moves slowly against that kind of injustice. Even the ferment of a decade that offered women the promise of something better has receded now into the pallid gains and the political trench-digging and sloganeering of a government that says it somehow has to use persuasion instead of legislation.

Seventy-two per cent of the women in Ontario are counted among the official labour force. That is what we are talking about. Women in this province are paid 63 cents for every dollar men earn, an average of \$8,623 a year less than men. Women work for the same reasons men do. Yet in 1981 the average income of a female-headed family in Ontario was \$14,000 less than that of a male-headed family. Over two thirds of working women are trapped in clerical, sales and service sector job ghettos where opportunities for advancement and promotion are often scarce, or nonexistent.

The arguments against equal value are familiar. They talk about government tinkering with the relative wage rates, but they fail to deal with the essential historical problem which is one of civil liberties, human rights and discrimination against a group of people. All the slogans and all the advertising that this government does will do nothing to remedy this situation. They will do nothing to remedy a situation where even with the same educational background, women are still paid less than men.

In managerial and administrative jobs, women with doctorates earn one third less than men. Last year more than 67 per cent of public elementary teachers in Ontario were women, yet they managed to be paid considerably less because they held only 13 per cent of all positions of added responsibility. A 1980 study undertaken by two professors from the University of Windsor indicated that even after practising for five years, women lawyers in this province

earned \$3,000 a year less than their male counterparts.

5:40 p.m.

When I started to speak this afternoon, I talked about the effect the present discrimination has on retirement incomes. I will end with only one figure. Nearly two thirds of women who live alone in this country are living on incomes below the poverty line. Many Canadian women live that constant and incomplete cycle of poverty and this government, with all its slogans and advertising, has done absolutely nothing to remedy that problem. The National Council of Welfare estimates that one in seven Canadians living below the poverty line is a minimum earner, welfare recipient or a single elderly person, and the majority of these are women.

I have talked about the evolution of a process we have been going through during the past two centuries. This amendment is one more stage, a stage that has been recognized by other jurisdictions. It is clearly practical and can be interpreted, as has been shown by numerous learned judges. It is a stage we must now arrive at and a step this government must adopt. I urge all members of the House to vote for this amendment.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I will be fairly brief. I want to join my colleague the member for Essex South in indicating our party will support this amendment. It is an amendment that is probably not without flaws. There are some details within some of the sections of the amendment that appear to be rather redundant with regard to what is already in place, although I may say particularly that anything that can further the enforcement procedure of our new equal pay laws would be most welcome. Obviously, I hope this amendment will be carried by the House.

I want to say through my friend the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour that I was pleased to note we will be getting five new employment standards officers in Ontario who will do nothing but enforce the equal pay law. Frankly, given the impact of the amendment as it changes the present equal pay law, there is not much new to enforce. I would remind him that five equal pay officers to handle the problem in the whole province is hardly what I would deem to be a very exciting breakthrough; perhaps five to handle Metropolitan Toronto would be useful.

I believe he gave us the figure of five for the whole province. I do not really think that is going to be adequate, although it may well be so if we are stuck in the same kind of equal pay ghetto.

That is really what we have in Ontario, an equal pay ghetto. We have had this for such a long time. I just do not believe in the composite test.

I note again and repeat the minister's own comments with regard to the brief survey that was conducted about a year ago. If I remember it, and I do not have my notes with me, it indicated that the vast majority of the cases that came in were probably cases where the individuals believed there was an equal pay for equal work situation. Only 10 per cent of those cases that were thrown out as being unjustified because of the present equal pay for equal work law would today be adjudicated in favour of the worker.

I want to remind the member for Brantford of the statistics that sometimes seem so simple when we say that women earn 63 per cent of what men earn. One can say 63 per cent of what? This is just a number, but I remind him that the figures he heard earlier this afternoon put some real meat to that number.

We are talking about \$8,000 a year on average. We are talking about thousands of dollars. The parliamentary assistant—and I do not mean this in any mean kind of way—can think of the impact on his own present remuneration, should that \$8,000 he makes over and above his basic salary be removed. He starts with a very substantial basic salary. He should perhaps run that figure down to \$14,000, \$15,000 or \$16,000 and see the impact of earning that much lower a salary would be in terms of the differential between women and men.

The points that have been made this afternoon by the member for Essex South and by others bear some repetition. We are not talking about women who are doing second jobs. We are not talking about women who are going out to earn a few extras for the family. In many cases we are talking about single women, divorced women and widows. We are talking about sole-support mothers.

There are thousands of sole-support mothers. We are talking about women who are working because if they do not work the family income will be so hard pressed they would not be able to buy a house, afford to live in a decent apartment or to put nourishing food on the table. Those are the realities in 1984 in Ontario. I think the parliamentary assistant and the members of this government know that.

I want to come back to the very point I thought was made last fall. I want to remind the parliamentary assistant and his government colleagues about what we are voting on tonight. What happened on October 20 last year was that

the members from all three parties of this House stood in their places on a roll call and voted to enshrine the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the act. That is what this amendment proposes to do.

If the members wish to make the amendment less proactive, then I suggest they remove subsection 33(2) of the amendment. The guts of the amendment are in subsections 33(1) and 33(3), as I understand it. They place and enshrine, as our amendment did, the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act.

I took the opportunity to note who voted in favour of this resolution from the member for Hamilton Centre last fall. I am so pleased that so many of them are in the House this afternoon because they might remind themselves of it. Of all members, there was a total of 16 cabinet ministers in the present cabinet who voted for the resolution sponsored by the member for Hamilton Centre.

I want to pick out a couple of those who stand out as being most notable. There was the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), formerly Minister of Labour, the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague), the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) and the Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson). I am sure she will remember she voted for the enshrining of the concept in the Employment Standards Act.

I see my friend the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean). He will remember he was in his place that day and he voted for the amendment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I supported the concept.

Mr. Wrye: I am quite willing to defer to the Minister of Education, if she would like to explain to me why she voted to enshrine it. When she is now given the chance to enshrine it, apparently, based on the vote last Tuesday night, she is not prepared to vote in favour of it. I do not understand what has happened. I do not really understand what has changed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member was not listening to what I just said.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: She voted for it. I know there were a large number of government back-benchers, aspirants to front-row seats, who voted in favour

of it. I suppose we should name, first, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour, who is carrying this bill. I would like to know from him what is different on this day in May 1984 from that day in October 1983 when he stood in his place and voted to enshrine the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act.

I would not insult his intelligence by suggesting he did not understand what he was voting for. I think he knows what enshrining a concept means; I think he knows what the words "equal pay for work of equal value" mean. I just wonder why he did not vote against it. Since he voted in favour of it, why will he not stand in his place and support the NDP amendment?

Quite frankly—and we are all reasonable people on this side of the House—he should bring in his own. He should sit down with the Minister of Labour at dinner and bring in his own amendment.

Mr. Mancini: Who else was there?

Mr. Wrye: The member for Essex South goads me on. He wants to know who else was there.

Mr. Mancini: I want to know them all.

Mr. Wrye: The member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) was in his place and he voted for it. I see the member for Armourdale (Mr. McCafrey) just standing to his left. He was in his place. I am sure the newly elected member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) would have voted for this and I hope he will vote tonight. I would tell the member for Essex South that the vast majority of the government members here right now were in their places. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) and the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) were here.

Mr. Chairman, you will remember that day. It was a grand day; it was a day of great unanimity in this place. I would remind the member for Essex South, but I need not remind you, Mr. Chairman, that you too stood in your place in support of enshrining the concept.

Since we on this side and in this party voted to enshrine the concept, we have looked at the NDP amendment and we find nothing terribly objectionable about it. It may be redundant in places. It may say some things that did not need to be said, but what does need to be said is in that amendment. It is equal pay for work of equal value and that is what this party favours. That is what this party voted to enshrine in October 1983 and that is what we will vote to enshrine tonight

on May 8, 1984. I hope the parliamentary assistant will tell me why times have changed.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment and to reiterate what the mover, the member for Hamilton East, said. If this amendment is not adopted to replace the present equal pay section in Bill 141, we will vote against the bill. We feel it is not implementation or enshrining of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act. Anybody who claims it is is simply playing games with words and is not aware of what the principle of equal pay for work of equal value stands for.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that in this House for the last month members of all parties have been standing up in their place and reading petitions to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature of Ontario pleading that equal pay for work of equal value be included in the Employment Standards Amendment Act. They have also pleaded for the inclusion of a policy of affirmative action since most people agree affirmative action is an essential part of implementation of equal pay for work of equal value.

These petitions have come from all parts of the province. They have been signed by a great many people and they have been read into the record by members of all parties. I would have hoped the government would be listening to those petitions. However, in its official reply tabled in the House to the petitions, it is still sticking by its opinion that the present amendments, in effect, provide what those petitions ask for. It is a question of semantics and burying one's head in the sand when there is an amendment that purports to provide equal pay but does not enshrine the principle.

As some of the previous speakers have done, I would also like to draw attention to the voting patterns on the previous occasions the House has had to express an opinion on this principle. On October 20, when we voted on the motion by the Liberal Party to enshrine the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the Employment Standards Act, 43 Conservatives were in the

House when the vote came. All voted for that motion.

That included the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. However, I note that neither the Minister of Labour nor the Minister responsible for Women's Issues has attended a single sitting at which this amendment to Bill 141, the Employment Standards Act, has been debated.

The Minister of Labour has passed it on to his parliamentary assistant to pilot the bill through the House, which seems to indicate he does not consider it a very important bill. With all due respect for the parliamentary assistant, we had hoped the minister would be here, particularly in view of the fact that he voted for enshrinement of the principle.

On October 20, when the principle was being voted on, 25 Liberals and 14 New Democrats voted. On private members' day, not all members are able to be in the House. The subsequent history shows that some people voted for that amendment who have not voted for implementing the principle.

On November 17, when the bill of the member for York South (Mr. Rae) was before the House—and it would have implemented both equal pay for work of equal value and affirmative action—there were 47 Conservatives who voted against implementation, even though 43 had voted for the principle.

The Deputy Chairman: May I suggest to the honourable member that we break as it is so close to six o'clock.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I will just finish the bit about November 17, if I may.

The Minister responsible for Women's Issues ducked out of the House before the vote on November 17. Only 20 of the 33 Liberals in the Legislature voted for it, while 20 of the 22 New Democrats voted for it. All we needed to pass that bill were seven more votes. It was defeated 47 to 40. In effect, the absentee Liberals defeated the bill.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

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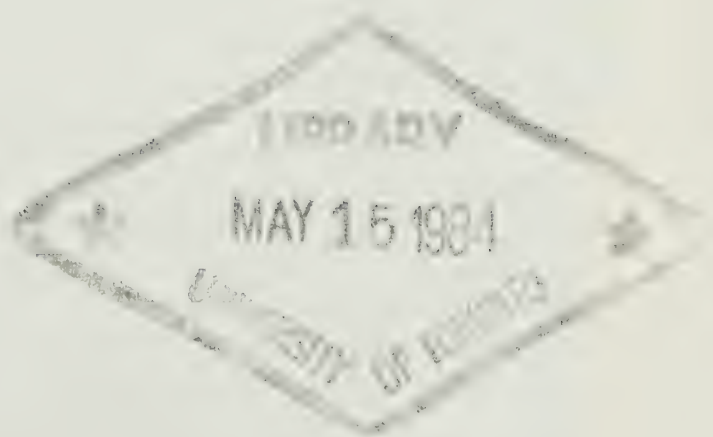
Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, May 8, 1984
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 8, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of the whole.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

On section 1:

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourned for the supper recess, I was speaking about the petitions that had been presented to the Legislature from a great many women across the province by members of all parties.

One group that also presented a petition in favour of substituting the concept of equal pay for work of equal value for the present equal pay section in the Employment Standards Act was the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, which is a Canada-wide body representing 280 affiliated organizations, a great many of them in Ontario. The total membership of those 280 organizations is two million to three million women, a very important group as far as opinion in this country is concerned.

Today the National Action Committee on the Status of Women sent a telegram to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) which reads: "The National Action Committee on the Status of Women urges you to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value in keeping with the motion passed in the House on October 20, 1983. To refuse to act is to make a mockery of parliamentary procedure and the motion you adopted last fall."

That succinctly states the case we are trying to put before the House this evening in support of the New Democratic Party amendment, which would substitute equal pay for work of equal value for the equal pay section in Bill 141.

I was also referring to previous votes last fall on this issue and pointing out that on October 20, when the principle was voted on, 82 members of this Legislature voted for it and none voted against it. When the NDP leader's bill came up November 17, it was defeated 47 to 40, with 47 Conservatives voting against it, despite the fact that 43 had voted for the principle; 20 NDP voted

for it, as did 20 Liberals, but 13 Liberals were absent.

Second reading on December 5 was passed with 61 Conservatives voting for it, 20 NDP against and 19 Liberals against, but there were still 14 Liberals absent. The fact that there appeared to be a considerable block of Liberals who were not happy with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value perhaps accounts for the rather schizophrenic amendment the Liberals brought in last week. That amendment did not even mention the words "equal pay for work of equal value."

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: The honourable member has an odd way of describing an amendment she and her party voted for last week.

Ms. Bryden: I was going on to point out the ways in which the New Democratic Party amendment differs from the Liberal amendment and improves on it to a very great extent. I do not think one can call that schizophrenia.

The Liberal amendment simply took out the words "substantially the same kind of" before the word "work" which meant that the composite test would be applied to any kind of work. There was no indication of what the philosophy of the legislation would be to guide courts and administrators in deciding what work could be compared since it did not mention equal value. There would be all sorts of room for court actions and differences of opinion on what work was comparable under that vague amendment without any reference to equal value.

The NDP amendment, on the other hand, prefaces the action of providing equal pay by saying, "In assessing the value of work performed by employees employed in the same establishment..." Then an employment standards officer could go ahead and assess it. That is the difference.

The NDP amendment also gives the responsibility to an employment standards officer to work out the assessment procedures. That is what is needed if we are going to have practical legislation that will not result in a lot of litigation, arbitration, grievances and so on.

The federal government has worked out methods and manuals that are being published

and is developing a body of procedures for assessing equal value. The argument that it is too difficult to implement is being met by the fact that it is being implemented at the federal level and has been under way for about five years.

While Quebec has what it speaks of as employment which is "equivalent" and which presumably means equal pay, so far Quebec has mainly had cases comparing comparable jobs, but the legislation is there. The word "equivalent" employment is still in the legislation and is there if they need it when cases are brought before them that go beyond comparing comparable jobs.

The whole point is that the Liberal amendment does not specifically provide for comparing dissimilar jobs on the basis of equal value.

Other ways in which the NDP amendment differs from the vague Liberal one is that it allows complaints to be made not only by employees but also by classes of employees in the same establishment or employees' organizations, meaning trade unions. It allows for a right of appeal, for a review of a decision or order by way of a hearing before a referee.

It also provides for annual reports to monitor the effects of the legislation. I think that is very important. We do not get annual reports from the present equal pay section except on request; then they do dig out the figures. If we had annual reports and monitoring, we might have a better idea of how it was working or how few people were affected by it.

8:10 p.m.

An interesting clause in the NDP amendment is that employee expenses are to be added to the award and deemed unpaid wages, because it costs money to lay a complaint and to go through all the processes. One may have to take some time off work, one may have to travel to a hearing; so we have provided that the employee's expenses would be included in the award. The employer, of course, can deduct those expenses from tax payable.

Our amendment also rules out the creation of separate establishments as a device to bypass the equal pay law. I understand the ministry does have rules attempting to identify what is the same establishment. They can be places that could be geographically separate; establishments set up simply to bypass the equal pay law would probably not be recognized, but it is not written right into the statute as it is in the NDP amendment. That is another reason we need this kind of amendment.

The NDP amendment includes the composite test, which is an improvement to some extent on the four criteria in the present equal pay law; but as everyone will admit, the composite test will not solve the problem of making dissimilar jobs comparable unless we do that specifically in the legislation.

For all those reasons I commend the NDP amendment to both the Liberals and the Conservatives. I understand the Liberals will be voting for it, and all we need are some votes from the other side of the House to pass it.

Before supper, I was mentioning the petitions that had come in and said the minister had replied to them in the official response to petitions as is required under the rules of the House. Let me read into the record exactly what he said, because it puts very precisely where the government stands on equal pay for work of equal value. The Minister of Labour says, on page 721 of Hansard:

"Equal pay for work of equal value—The government has stated in the past that while it is in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, it is not convinced that this ideal can be completely achieved through legislation, given the difficulties in comparing dissimilar jobs and the complexities of the labour market.

"In our view, Bill 141 is a responsible move to address the wage gap problem. In broadening the basis for determining equality of work to allow a composite evaluation of the four factors—skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions—while continuing the requirement that jobs compared be substantially the same, the bill applies the equal value test to jobs that are capable of meaningful comparison.

"While the government does not intend to amend Bill 141 to provide for equal pay for work of equal value as between dissimilar jobs, we intend to continue to monitor the situation following the passage of the bill to assess its effectiveness in addressing the wage gap problem."

I note the minister assumes the bill will pass. Maybe he will get a surprise. He also falls back on the idea that we must continue to monitor the situation. After all, we have only had the present equal pay law in effect for about 10 or 15 years and have been monitoring its effect and finding it is very ineffective.

He tries to claim he is applying the equal value test, but only to jobs that are capable of meaningful comparison, so in effect he has said it is too difficult to implement.

The fact that 103 countries have ratified the International Labour Organization convention

supporting equal pay for work of equal value would seem to indicate that a good number of countries have implemented equal pay for work of equal value.

The parliamentary assistant, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), said the federal experience in the five years they have been administering equal pay for work of equal value in their Human Rights Code indicates they are not dealing with very many cases in comparison to Ontario and their awards have been mainly voluntary settlements. I think the parliamentary assistant is not completely up to date on the federal activity in this field.

I have a letter from the vice-chairman of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Mme Rita Cadieux, who wrote in the fall of 1983, saying:

"At the present time, the commission has 27 investigators, any of whom may be assigned to investigate an equal pay complaint. Given the technical nature of these complaints, the commission has employed, for most of the time since 1978, two equal pay specialists. These specialists assist investigators in the collection, analysis and evaluation of data and in the development of settlement proposals.

"The equal pay specialists also provide a consultative service for employers, employees and interest groups and are involved in the development of policy and procedures relating to section 11," which is the equal pay section of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

She gives the results in the five years since the act has been in operation as follows:

"Sixty complaints alleging violations of equal pay provisions of the act have been filed since March 1, 1978. To date, there have been nine settlements directly benefiting approximately 4,600 employees.

"Voluntary settlements have increased the wages of a further 1,300 persons. The cost of these settlements has been in excess of \$20 million in retroactive payments and an estimated \$12 million per annum in ongoing costs. There are 28 complaints under investigation at this time, and 23 complaints have been dismissed or withdrawn during investigation."

That shows they are proceeding to make substantial awards in Ottawa. They are proceeding to build up a body of opinion or methods and procedures. They may appear to be going somewhat slowly as far as the actual number of cases is concerned, but they are choosing cases that require the development of procedures that will be applied in the future to a great many cases as they emerge.

The parliamentary assistant says if we start to count heads, Ontario has been handling more cases than Ottawa. However, he has to remember that the Ottawa legislation covers only 10 per cent of the population. It covers only employees under federal jurisdiction. He had to go back four years to get a meaningful figure for Ontario, but it still works out to only about 500 complaints for four years. I understand, from statistics I have, that one in four are found not to be in violation of the act. The main reason they are not in violation is that the act is so narrow. The Ontario awards have been very minimal.

We asked the minister in the committee hearings at the beginning of this year if he had any estimate of how many more employees would be covered by the amendments in Bill 141 than are now covered by the present somewhat narrower tests of what jobs are comparable. He consulted with his staff and wrote a letter to all members of the committee afterwards saying no precise estimate could be made of how many more employees would be covered.

8:20 p.m.

I notice the parliamentary assistant has been tossing out a figure, saying that even if 10 per cent more were covered there would be a substantial improvement in the position of women in Ontario. When you have only about 500 complaints, even 10 per cent more is not going to affect a great many women in this province.

There are close to two million women in the labour force in Ontario, and most of them are not being touched by the present legislation. A great many of them are still in job ghettos where, under the present legislation, there are no comparable male jobs and therefore they are completely cut off from any equal pay redress if they feel they are underpaid; and most women in the job ghettos are underpaid, because their work has been considered women's work and the marketplace has reflected that attitude. As a result of the present legislation, all the women in the job ghettos where there are no comparable jobs cannot claim that their jobs are of equal value to jobs somewhere else, jobs occupied by men.

I have here some examples of jobs that are at present not affected by the equal pay legislation, or appear not to be affected, but that would be considered comparable under a proper equal value law. The two cases that I want to bring before the House—

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: In my view, earlier this evening in her remarks the member for Beaches-Woodbine

(Ms. Bryden) was imputing motives to members of the Legislature. On Thursday afternoons there are sometimes votes on issues that come before the House, and she has chosen one particular afternoon and one particular bill to—

Mr. Stokes: That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Bradley: I would not be intimidated by the former Speaker, because if a person is imputing motives, surely that is a point of privilege for this House.

On the normal Thursday afternoon, when the government blocks so many votes from taking place in the House anyway, it is a disincentive for members to show up at any time on a Thursday afternoon to vote. Her suggestion is that any member who was not here was simply not in favour of the resolution or bill being voted on that afternoon. That is clearly imputing motives and she should withdraw it.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, a prima facie case is being made by the member for Beaches-Woodbine, and I do not think there is any point of privilege involved here at all.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, I am sure the honourable member will refer to standing order 19(d)9, and I think on reflection he will recall that it has to do with imputing motives to another member. That probably would best be defined as specifically another member.

Mr. McClellan: She was talking about a whole herd of members.

Mr. Chairman: That is what I understood. I wonder if the member for Beaches-Woodbine might continue.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I was giving an example of where equal pay for work of equal value would allow the two jobs to be compared, but the present law has so far not given redress to these people. These are employees of the Carleton University support staff, and their union has pointed out there are two jobs, one called "secretary-word processor" in the administrative services department and one called "truck driver" in the building and grounds department. The secretary-word processor is paid \$7.30 an hour and the truck driver is paid \$8.79 an hour, so the annual pay is \$13,300 compared to \$18,300, about \$5,000 difference.

Their qualifications are as follows. The secretary-word processor must have grade 12 or equivalent plus formal secretarial training at a community college or secretarial school; the truck driver must have grade 10 or equivalent and a class D driver's licence. The secretary must

have a minimum of one year's experience; the truck driver must have experience with truck driving but no minimum period is specified.

The secretary must have 55 words per minute, knowledge of office procedures, terminology, record-keeping, filing and so on. The truck driver must be able to deliver to user departments and do uptown pickups, and the loading and unloading of the truck.

The secretary's other jobs take half a page of her job description, such as "prepare telephone requisitions, collect information, sort and process leave forms, perform receptionist duties" and so on. The truck driver must maintain necessary records. For those two jobs there is \$5,000 difference, but the present law would probably not allow them to be compared even under the composite test.

The second case this group produced was two mail clerks, one female and one male. They were classified differently. One was classified as level 3 and got \$13,300 a year; the other was classified as level 4 and got \$14,885 a year. The job descriptions were practically identical but there was a difference of almost 12 per cent in their pay. The same was true of two other mail clerks in a different branch. The woman got \$16,200 a year, the man got \$18,400 a year, and the difference was 13.6 per cent.

They tried taking these situations to the employment standards branch in January 1984. They were told that since they had a union they should go through the grievance arbitration procedure before they could go through the Employment Standards Act. They are in the process of that rather cumbersome procedure, which means at the end of that, and after they have probably spent a considerable amount of both their own time and the union's money, they may find they have not succeeded in establishing their case and may try the employment standards branch at that time. In the meantime, the women go on being paid at these low rates.

For those who do not have a collective bargaining agreement, we do not know whether the employment standards branch would even entertain such a case. Only one third of the working population is organized and probably an even smaller percentage of working women are organized. To suggest they can solve these problems through the collective bargaining process alone is not an answer to the problem of closing the wage gap.

There has been considerable discussion from all parties on the Gunderson report that the government commissioned and which purported

to show that actual wage discrimination between men and women was only part of the reason for the wage gap, and other parts of it were differences in education, differences in occupation and differences in the kind of work undertaken by men and women.

Even Mr. Gunderson himself admits there are considerable shortcomings to his report. There has been undue stress on his findings. I would like to draw the attention of the members to one or two of his findings. One thing he was careful to say in his report is that all his figures are based on limited empirical data because he did not have the time or facilities to do a very in-depth study of this question.

8:30 p.m.

He acknowledges that there continues to be a debate on the legitimacy of his model of wage differential calculation. I would agree with him that the wage gap reflects both wage discrimination on equal pay for equal work and occupational segregation, but if one accepts occupational segregation as one of the variables, one is accepting the concept that has produced a lot of that occupational discrimination, that is, the concept of "women's work" and "men's work," which has resulted in considerably lower wages for those who are in what is traditionally known as women's work. Therefore, to say this is not part of the discrimination problem is to mislead the examination of the question.

In effect, these occupational differences come from what is called systemic discrimination in many cases. The whole personnel recruitment and hiring system puts women in certain occupations and men in others. The educational system also contributes to this. In total, this systemic discrimination results in lower wages for women. The only way to overcome that is by starting to compare the value of dissimilar jobs.

I would like to read two conclusions of Mr. Gunderson. Regarding the present equal pay legislation in Ontario, he says there is "rather limited scope of equal pay for equal work legislation in closing the earnings gap because it is traditionally confined to comparisons with the same establishment and occupation." He goes on to say that existing "equal pay legislation has not been able to reduce the earnings gap significantly."

He concludes by saying: "Legislating equal pay for work of equal value, like affirmative action and policies designed to improve the labour market option for females, can be regarded as additional policies in the 'arsenal of weapons.' The evidence suggests that an arsenal

of weapons approach would yield benefits in terms of reducing the earnings gap."

I think we are all agreed in this House that we need an arsenal of weapons. But this government rejects the two major arrows in the arsenal or arrow holder, that is, equal value legislation and mandatory affirmative action. If the government throws those two out of the arsenal, it has not got much of an arsenal.

I want to refer to some of the comments made last week by the parliamentary assistant. One thing he said was that part of the differences mentioned by Mr. Gunderson was that women have less education as well as being occupationally segregated.

My colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) earlier today quoted some figures from the latest report on women crown employees which showed that at practically all levels women in the public service had more education than men at the same levels. I will not requote the figures he gave, but there are other studies that show that in the population—

Mr. Chairman: Order. Before the member proceeds, I would remind members on all sides of the House that there are all too many private conversations going on in all the different caucuses as well as little intercaucus discussions. Can we hold it down so that we can hear the remainder of the member's debate?

Ms. Bryden: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Independent studies of the educational level of men and women in the working force generally show that, on balance, women have more education than men when one compares certain occupations. They have more community college training, or more of them have been to university. However, their education is simply not being recognized. In many cases, that is the systemic discrimination. They are not being considered for the higher-paying jobs, particularly in nontraditional fields, and their full educational qualifications are not being recognized.

Certainly, the composite test would bring in some of those comparisons, but it is not much use if one is not going to be able to compare dissimilar jobs.

One point the parliamentary assistant raised as a bogymen was that if we went ahead with something as rash as equal value legislation we could raise the levels of unemployment and worsen the position of women.

Of course, as we know, the question of the effect of increasing minimum wages, reducing hours or improving standards has always been accompanied by warnings that it is going to ruin

the economy or raise the levels of unemployment.

But let us consider the kind of economic situation we are in now. What we desperately need is more purchasing power. Think what a stimulus to the economy it would be if all the underpaid women in the job ghettos, for example, were paid their fair and proper share and were given wages equivalent to the value of their work when we compare their jobs to jobs in other sectors of society.

At the moment, those women are subsidizing employers. They are the ones who are taking the loss. If we transfer that loss to the employer, who is getting the benefit of their work, and women get fair value for their work there will be a great deal of new purchasing power in the economy. That could stimulate the economy to the extent that everybody would benefit, both men and women. There would be more jobs, more purchasing going on and a healthier economy. The higher unemployment kind of argument is simply a red herring.

The Minister of Labour used to say in 1982 that equal value legislation was impractical. The next year he said that while it was not necessarily impractical, it was more of an ideal we cannot afford. That is really the bottom line with the Conservative government. It is more interested in protecting the employers, who are now getting cheap labour from the many women who are in undervalued jobs, than in bringing forward fairness in the labour market and at the same time stimulating the economy.

For the government to say, as the member for Brantford did, that the Conservatives have been the leading edge of social legislation in this country is a bit laughable when one looks at their record.

Let me just look at the record of the Conservative Party. Thirty three years ago, back in 1951, it brought in something called the Female Employees Fair Remuneration Act. That was probably one of the first equal pay laws in Canada.

Agnes MacPhail, the first woman member of the federal House and of the provincial House, happened to be in the Ontario House at that time and she made a speech in which she indicated that what she thought fair remuneration meant was equal value legislation. They did not use the term in that day, but it was clear from the context that is what she meant.

8:40 p.m.

She stated: "I think it is a straight case of justice. I think it is a disgrace to men that they are

not willing that women should get the same pay for doing the same work." When she was making a speech on that bill, some members stood up and said, "What would our wives think if we put in a vague phrase like 'equal value'?" She looked back and said: "I often wonder."

After 1951 we waited until 1962 before we got equal pay for equal work legislation in the Ontario Human Rights Code. That dealt with the same work in the same establishment. In 1969 that clause became part of the Employment Standards Act and it could become part of employment standards audits. Some time in the mid-1970s that concept of the "same work" was clarified to read "substantially the same kind of work performed in the same establishment, the performance of which requires the same skill, effort and responsibility and which is performed under similar working conditions."

That was the old equal pay law in the mid-1970s. It has not changed much until now when the composite standard is being brought in and those four criteria can be looked at as a whole rather than having to be equal on all four. In 33 years we have really made very little progress. We have been tinkering with the wording of "equal pay" most of that time.

We did have a seminar on equal pay put on by the Ontario Status of Women Council in February 1984. They really brought out more arguments in favour of equal value than were brought out against it, but that does not seem to have had very much effect on the ministry as far as changing Bill 141 is concerned.

I would like to commend the council for holding the seminar and bringing the top people in the field to Toronto to discuss the issues. They brought people from the Canadian office of the International Labour Organization. They brought the people from Ottawa who administer the federal legislation, and from Quebec. They brought several representatives from employers' organizations and one representative from trade union organizations. It was a very good seminar, and I suggest the ministry should reread the papers that were presented there.

They also presented to us the record of awards under the present equal pay law. The head of the employment standards branch simply said, "From March 1980 to date, only 500 complaints had come in," which works out to about 125 a year.

On the other hand, the New Democratic Party members have a record of continuing efforts to bring in equal pay for work of equal value. They have pioneered in this field and tried to bring this

government into the 20th century in the field of economic equality.

In 1979 the first equal pay for work of equal value bill was introduced in this House by Ted Bounsall, a member of the NDP. That bill was carried over to 1980 because it passed second reading. It must have been a great surprise to the government when it did pass second reading and was sent out to committee hearings, which were held in 1980. There were a great number of briefs in favour of the bill, but the government allowed the bill to die on the order paper that same year. It was never called for third reading.

The next bill was my own in 1983, and then there was another from the member for York South (Mr. Rae) in 1983. Mine died on the order paper and his was defeated in the House.

I think the women of this province are getting rather frustrated at appearing before more and more public hearings, on Ted Bounsall's bill in 1980 and Bill 141 in 1984. Some of them simply dusted off their briefs from 1980 and updated them because the story was still the same. The majority of women in this province very much want equal pay for work of equal value. They feel the wage gap will never be closed until they do get it and they have made very strong cases for it. I would say about 97 per cent of the briefs presented to the 1984 hearings, which lasted for three solid days, urged equal pay for work of equal value.

They came to the conclusion that the present clauses in Bill 141, which sets up the government's new equal pay law, were completely useless in closing the wage gap and that they should be scrapped and replaced by proper equal pay for work of equal value legislation.

The women have spoken. There is a growing gender gap, particularly in the United States, between the way men and women vote. More women are opposing right-wing policies such as Mr. Reagan's and supporting social policies, partly because women are far more affected by social legislation than men. More of them live under the poverty line. I think they also have a sense that it is very unfair to continue to have this great wage gap between men and women.

There is a gender gap growing in this province and in Canada. Some of the recent Gallup polls indicate that more women are pulling away from the Conservative Party to support other parties. That will grow if the government continues to ignore the demands of women for this kind of economic equality.

People often ask why we have so few women members in the Legislature. One of the main

reasons is economic. A lot of women simply cannot afford to become candidates because they cannot save enough money and they do not have jobs they can necessarily leave for a period of one to five to 10 years and then go back to. If they had economic equality, they would be in a much better position to put on campaigns, to take leaves of absence and so on. There are other barriers, such as child care and home responsibilities which are still being placed 80 per cent on women, but I hope that will change over time and those duties will be shared.

I would urge government members to consider the growing frustrations of the women of Ontario and to recognize that those women are now much more politically active. They are hearing speeches from the Liberal candidates in the leadership race, particularly Mr. Turner, about equal pay for work of equal value. They are hearing speeches by Mr. Mulroney about his concern for women's issues. They are expecting all parties to deliver much more in the way of economic equality and they are expecting nothing short of equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I might just take a few moments to respond to some of the concerns raised by the last three or four speakers on the debate, particularly in response to the member for Beaches-Woodbine. I say very seriously that I appreciate her contribution to the debate, which I think has been the most thoughtful thus far. I know she has spent a lot of time and expended a lot of effort on this issue for a number of years.

I want to respond first to the points the member raised about the federal experience. I almost hesitated to raise it this evening because as soon as a member on this side or a representative of the government makes any sort of comparison between the federal experience and what we are attempting to do at Queen's Park, we are immediately accused of fed-bashing. In my own defence I would say I only raised the federal legislation and the situation in Ottawa in response to the comments made this afternoon by the member for Hamilton East.

8:50 p.m.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine noted in her remarks that there were 27 investigators in the federal department that adjudicates these equal value and equal pay cases, and I am sure that is so. I just want to reassure her that the addition of the five employment standards officers who will be hired in response to our passage of Bill 141 will bring our provincial complement in this area to 15. I hope she will

agree with me that on a per capita basis we will actually have more people investigating and adjudicating these cases than the federal government has. I hope the ministry will monitor this. If having 15 people investigating these cases is found to be inadequate for the work that is brought in, then I hope my minister will have an open mind towards allocating more manpower if necessary.

Another point that I think bears explanation, because it was brought up by the member for Beaches-Woodbine and by the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton), is the point that yes, it is generally agreed that very few cases have actually been adjudicated and very few decisions actually rendered as a result of federal equal value legislation. The point was made to me very strongly before the supper break by the member for Hamilton Mountain that he thought I was ignoring the number of cases that had been worked out through negotiation between the two parties.

I want to assure him that I was not ignoring it; we are very much aware of that. In fact, I just hope members recognize that many cases are worked out on a negotiated basis between the two parties at the provincial level too, under our existing legislation.

I just want to explain this process, as I am sure members would appreciate knowing the process as it works in the provincial context. I am sure members are aware that when a complaint is brought—

Mr. McClellan: Give us one example.

Mr. Gillies: Hang on just a minute. The member will have every opportunity to put his thoughts forward. I am here and I have to respond, so please let me just get this out.

A complaint is filed with the employment standards branch, and the complaint does not normally start as an intended prosecution under the existing legislation. There are also—and I made this point earlier—routine audits not made in response to a complaint, but routine audits of various organizations going on by our investigators. I am very keenly aware of this because a major public sector employer in my riding has been subjected to one of these audits and has had to respond to the overtures made by our ministry. I might tell members that I heard about this in a not completely flattering light from that particular employer.

I want to make it clear—and this is very important—that if the employer cannot justify pay differences on the basis of the application of a seniority system or one of the other grounds that

we have under subsection 33(3), and if he is found to be in violation, the employment standards officer attempts to reach a settlement on the amount of back pay to be paid and the amount of annual increment required to equalize the pay rates in question.

Mr. Cassidy: We are not talking about dissimilar jobs. The parliamentary assistant is not talking about the amendment at all.

Mr. Gillies: Is there something the matter with the member for Ottawa Centre?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: The amendment is to substitute for the section a provision for equal pay for work of equal value. That is equal pay for dissimilar work where, in fact, by the composite test that work is of equal value.

The member opposite, I am afraid, is speaking about the existing legislation of equal pay for equal work, and he is telling us there is an apparatus there to administer that. We acknowledge that; it is ineffectual but it exists. But it will not and it cannot deal with the vast numbers of cases where women are stuck in job ghettos, where they are doing jobs that are dissimilar but of equal or greater value. It will not deal with the situation of the telephone operators here in this building, for example, who are paid less than the parking lot attendants, despite having the need for greater skill, greater education and greater experience.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, I do not know that it is a point of order.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, that is all very interesting, but it is really irrelevant. I am responding to points that were raised by opposition members about the experience in this province and in the country with the various pieces of legislation we have.

I would be pleased to stick to the discussion of the amendment as closely as other members, but I am sure you will agree, Mr. Chairman, that I should have the opportunity to respond to the points that have been raised. If they were in order, then I would think my response would be in order.

There is an attempt by the employment standards officer to reach a settlement on the amount of back pay, etc. Then if such a settlement cannot be reached, the director can appoint a referee to adjudicate that case under section 51 of the act. If that does not work, in turn, a case can be referred to the Divisional Court if necessary.

The federal experience has not been all roses. I say that with respect because I know we are contemplating a slightly different approach from the one they have adopted. The honourable member who spoke earlier is probably a recipient of the Public Service Alliance of Canada newsletter. She would be aware of the March 9 newsletter in which there was a rather critical article by the Public Service Alliance of Canada about the legislation in place.

I would like to quote from that. Under an article entitled "Tribunal Hears Equal Pay Complaint," the Public Service Alliance of Canada said, "The first ever federal tribunal established to hear an equal pay complaint has rendered a decision on preliminary matters."

They are talking about the case of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union, which filed a complaint on behalf of the female clerical workers at the Glace Bay heavy water plant in 1979. The article goes on to talk about the resolution of that case and makes the point: "This will be the first tribunal appointed under section 39 of the Canadian Human Rights Act to deal exclusively with a complaint on equal pay for work of equal value. Previous complaints have been settled through the conciliation process."

That is all well and good, but it leaves us with a big question mark in our minds as to the efficacy of the federal legislation when it becomes apparent that things have been worked out, some of which I understand could have been adjudicated under equal pay legislation as opposed to equal value legislation. That is also what we hear from Quebec, so the efficacy of the federal act has to remain in some question.

I would also like to respond to the member for Beaches-Woodbine. I do not think there is any disagreement on the part of the minister, myself or other representatives of the government who have spoken on this issue. She noted, and I completely agree with her, that any legislation we bring in—I hope I am paraphrasing the honourable member correctly—can only be one weapon in an arsenal of weapons needed to redress the situation of the wage gap. I completely concur with the member. I want her to know I do not feel there is any difference of opinion on that matter.

The difference of opinion is apparent. The difference we have is over the mechanism to be put in place by the legislation. We believe in following up on whatever successes we have been able to have in our own public service. I mentioned before dinner the fact that the wage gap in the Ontario public service closed over two

per cent last year, an unprecedented narrowing of that gap for a one-year period. I only hope that if we can build on that experience and enhance our ability to enforce the law of the province, we will see a continuing closing of that gap, but the legislation can only be part of the arsenal we apply to that.

I would like to go back a bit further to the comments made earlier before dinner by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye). I see he is not here. I hope he reads this. I believe the member for Windsor-Sandwich understands this, but there was some doubt in his remarks.

When I said last week there would be five employment standards officers added to the complement of the ministry to adjudicate cases brought in under Bill 141, I want it to be very clear that we are talking about five additional staff. There are already 10 employment standards officers working in this field. With five added, there will be 15 officers adjudicating cases under Bill 141 and our equal pay legislation generally.

I was not sure the honourable member understood that. I remind the members that with 15 officers adjudicating these cases, that is more per capita in manpower assigned to this area than the federal government has done under its legislation.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: I think the member made that point.

9 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: Going back earlier, I want to touch on the remarks made by the member for Hamilton Mountain. I do not want to go over the same ground again. I want to assure him I only raised the federal experience because the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) raised it and I felt some clarification was necessary.

I do not think whatever we do should be done on the basis of who is doing what better and who is using what approach. Whatever we do has to be in the best interest of the people of Ontario and has to be the best legislation we can put in place for the people of Ontario.

The member indicated he felt I had ignored the negotiation process. If I did, it was inadvertent. I recognize that many cases, both in Ottawa and under our existing legislation, are resolved by negotiation between the parties as opposed to the conduct of a case and the final rendering of a judgement. I am sure that will continue to be the case.

I hark back to some of the members who discussed this point last Tuesday. I believe the

member for Windsor-Sandwich made the point that regardless of what we do legislatively, it would probably affect only a very small percentage of the disagreements or disputes in this area around the province.

What we need is effective enforcement and the capacity for parties to get together and continue to negotiate settlements on these matters. Regardless of whether we accept the New Democratic Party amendment or the Liberal amendment or proceed with the bill as we envision it, I feel that will continue to be the case.

The member for Hamilton Mountain made some comments about the position taken by a number of employment groups and employers on this issue. He indicated most of them were favourable to legislation of an equal value nature. He harked back to briefs received in 1977 and 1979 on the various bills that have been debated.

I am sure that is the case. I am sure employers have come forward and indicated their willingness and happiness to have legislation of this kind. However, it is not as cut and dried as the member for Hamilton Mountain suggests. I hope he will look back on the submissions made to us in contemplating this legislation, as recently as January 1984. I assure him that while we are sure what we are doing is in the best interest—

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: If the member for Brantford is going to other members' comments—he did this last week to the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) and he is doing it to me today—he should at least have the courtesy to check Instant Hansard and find out what he is talking about.

I did not on any occasion say that most of the employers who came in supported legislation. What I said—and he can check Hansard on this—was that under questioning in our committee, they could provide no facts and generally backed down on the claim that jobs would be lost.

Mr. Gillies: I will indeed check Instant Hansard. I do not think that is what I heard the member say earlier.

I think he should be aware, though, that there is not only a continuing apprehension on the part of some employer groups on the question of equal value, if we were to entertain the amendment, but there is also a degree of misapprehension about the legislation we are bringing in. I ask the member to review the submissions by the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants Association of Canada, the Canadian

Organization of Small Business, the Retail Council of Canada and so on.

I am quite happy and the government is pleased and proud to forward this legislation, but I urge the member opposite to review those submissions and determine whether there is the degree of unanimity and enthusiasm on this legislation that he indicated would be the case.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, the member for Brantford subsided with a whimper rather than with a bang. I was not quite aware he had come to the end of his remarks.

I have a few comments to make about his intervention, and then I want to talk about the principle of the amendment that has been put forward and about some of the very real problems that exist in the work place. They are simply not addressed by the inadequate approach being taken by the government, but they are addressed by the amendment as proposed by the member for Hamilton East.

I hate to see the member for Brantford, who as a young Conservative came in here with perhaps a shinier gloss and a better image than many of his colleagues, turn into a tired apologist for the government's inaction and the government's failure to act.

I find, if I can draw comparisons, a great deal more freshness and innovation in, let us say, Jean Piggott, a resident of my riding and certainly a well-known Conservative who has been showing a great deal of leadership in trying to get her party to recognize the rightful role of women in politics, than in these kinds of tired nostrums that have come from the member for Brantford.

The member for Brantford is happy that there will be 15 officers adjudicating a bad law. If it is a bad law, it is a bad law; and if you step up the number of people adjudicating it, that is not going to turn it into a good law. That is the problem with the current principle of equal pay for equal work.

The government has broadened the composite test to a modest degree in the amendments in Bill 141 as we have it before us. None the less, it does not address the fact that most women work in jobs that are ghettoized, where there is a preponderance of women, and they are put into jobs where the salaries, the conditions, the benefits and the opportunities for advancement are very substantially less than those of men.

I tried to find this in the Bible this afternoon, but I could not find the exact reference. There is a reference in the Bible to the labourers in a vineyard; the women got three shekels a day, and the men got five. It shows that not a heck of a lot

has changed between biblical times and today, when women earn 63 per cent, on average, of what men earn here in Ontario.

Those 15 officers adjudicating equal pay cases that the member from Brantford referred to would mean there would be one officer for every 130,000 women workers in Ontario. This means, if you want to get down to it, that each officer will be able to spend at most, if my arithmetic is correct, one minute—

Mr. Kerrio: Michael likes the bishops again.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, I do, as a matter of fact. I hope my friend does too.

Mr. Kerrio: That is terrific.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: Just the lefty bishops.

Mr. Cassidy: Vince, I used to be a boy soprano in the basilica choir at the Petit Séminaire de Québec, which is one of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in all of North America.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cassidy: So do not talk to me about the bishops. I almost became one myself.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Do not allow yourself to be distracted by the interruptions.

Mr. Cassidy: You know, Mr. Chairman, what bothers me is the corruption that comes in when people try to distort Christianity to the purposes of capitalism instead of using Christianity as a means of arguing for the needs of ordinary people. I do not think Jesus would have approved of Conrad Black; I do not think he would have approved of John Turner either.

The Deputy Chairman: We are talking about Bill 141.

Mr. Cassidy: I am responding to the interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Please disregard the interjections and speak to Bill 141 and the amendment moved by the member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Bradley: I have a point of privilege.

The Deputy Chairman: Are you in your own seat?

Mr. Bradley: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: Yes, you are. Everybody else is out of it; that is what makes it confusing.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I think the member for Ottawa Centre should withdraw that remark about the Speaker of this House.

The Deputy Chairman: I did not hear him make any unkind remark.

Mr. Bradley: He referred disparagingly to John Turner.

The Deputy Chairman: He would have referred to him as the Speaker. He is talking about some other human being.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I would never underestimate our Speaker. I was of course referring to John Turner, the candidate for the Liberal leadership.

The Deputy Chairman: Please, now, as the honourable member usually does, speak eloquently to the bill before us, Bill 141.

9:10 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I do want to speak a bit to the principle of the amendment here and to the reasons our party believes it is vitally important to move forward on equal pay for work of equal value and not to continue to find reasons to prevaricate and to delay.

Over the last few months I have spent a lot of time travelling across this province talking with experts and working people, visiting work places and looking at some of the problems we are facing today and in the near future because of the very rapid pace of technological change. That is having a particular impact on women, and the impact it is having on women threatens to be extremely negative.

We are in the process of creating a two-tier society in which one tier of scientists, technologists, businessmen, executives and such people will enjoy extreme prosperity and power and have all the information resources of the modern-day computers etc. at their disposal. At the other end, in the other tier, will be masses of people working at minimum wage, or very close to it, who will be doing jobs that are so menial and scuzzy it will not be worth computerizing, automating and using high technology to replace them.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Just for the record, I think the honourable member will agree with me that his remarks are about as close to the amendment as mine were.

Mr. Cassidy: My remarks are very close to the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: I did not hear your remarks, but I say to the member for Ottawa Centre, we are still on Bill 141.

Mr. Cassidy: That was in jest.

The point I want to make is that women are particularly vulnerable to the changes that are

taking place right now. There are not many men in this building or in the Ontario government who work as secretaries. There are not many men who work as waiters at Woolworth's and similar restaurants. There are not many men who work as switchboard operators. There are not many men who work as drugstore clerks. There are not many men who work at all those low-paid jobs without career prospects which traditionally have been job ghettos for the bulk of women in the labour force.

Those are the jobs that are threatened, those are the jobs where it is extremely difficult to get advancement, promotion and greater incomes, and those are the jobs that are on the firing line because of computerization and technological change. The vulnerable workers who are women, in particular older workers but also young women, are now being threatened by growing unemployment. When there is growing unemployment, once again it is women who lose in the race, because they are already disadvantaged when it comes to competing for jobs.

The women who need training to get into new jobs are finding that training is not accessible. Even if they do get training for nontraditional jobs, they are finding those occupations are no longer open to them, because the men who have those jobs are hanging on, and already those men may need six or eight years of seniority to keep the jobs.

There are no new openings. Women who have gone into professions are finding the professions are full. They cannot get jobs as architects because architects are not being hired. Women who become engineers have found there are 10,000 engineers who cannot get jobs now because of unemployment.

These are the realities of what is happening out in the work place in Ontario today. I raise them for this reason. If we in this Legislature and in this government cannot try to respond to situations as they occur, if we are constantly falling behind, as we have been in the area of equal pay for work of equal value ensuring economic equality for women in the work place, then how the devil are we going to ensure equality in the work place of the future? I do not know.

What I see happening around us is that the pace of social change, economic change and work-place change is accelerating. That means that just to stand still people have to move faster than before. But women, because they are already disadvantaged, cannot move faster. If anything, they are finding themselves pushed back.

If they work in a supermarket, every keystroke is counted. If they work as secretaries, typists or general executive assistants, they find themselves pushed into a word processing pool where they work in semi-darkness, they never socialize with their fellow workers, they cannot learn other skills, and that is all they can do. If they worked as telephone operators, the chances are they may have lost their jobs as half the Bell Canada operators have lost their jobs over the course of the last decade or so.

Equal pay for work of equal value is not an entire response to that problem. The member for Beaches-Woodbine acknowledges that, the member for Brantford acknowledges it and I acknowledge it, but it is an essential part of a package of measures that are needed to ensure that we make equality a reality for women in the work place and not just a dream.

I remind all Conservative Party members out there of the disparities that exist right now and what those mean in actual concrete terms. If a male worker in Ontario wants to buy a new car that costs \$10,000, that is equivalent to 20 weeks' work. If a female worker in Ontario wants to buy the same new car, for her it is the equivalent to 30 weeks of work.

If a male worker wants to buy a \$100,000 house somewhere in the remote suburbs of Toronto, if he can find one, it will take four years' salary to pay for it. If a female worker wants to buy the same house, for her it is six years' salary.

If a male worker rents an apartment for \$600 a month, that is equivalent to 50 hours' work a month; if a female worker wants to pay the same rent, she has to pay the equivalent of 75 hours of work a month. That is real disparity. That is real discrimination. That is what we want to try to address.

We have used the example again and again about the switchboard operators here at Queen's Park as compared to the parking lot attendants, who have less education, less experience, less training, less responsibility and more money.

Here is another example. In the North York public library, maintenance workers, who of course are normally men, require a high school education, decent health and a chauffeur's licence. They must be able to use ordinary tools and to perform carpentry, plumbing and other related maintenance.

The maintenance workers get \$1,745 a year more than library technicians, even though the library technicians, who of course are ordinarily women, must have graduated from a two-year

library tech program at a community college and have the ability to communicate effectively. They must be able to work with and train other staff.

In other words, they must supervise and train other staff and perform duties such as reference work, cataloguing, data-base manipulation—that means operating computers—and staff scheduling with a minimum of supervision.

In summary, they must have supervisory responsibilities, responsibilities for dealing with the public and two years of additional specialized training in a community college, but library technicians get \$1,700 a year less than maintenance workers.

It is interesting that the supervisors of these occupational categories have a wage gap of \$1,218, even though the librarian supervisor needs an undergraduate degree plus a two-year master's degree in library science, whereas no such educational requirements exist for the supervisor of the maintenance employees.

That is just one example of many of the kinds of situations that exist right now in Ontario.

Let us suppose we sit back and do what was done three or four years ago. We will pass the bill as it stands right now. The composite test will come into force. A few more officers will be out there, so there will be one officer trying to communicate with every 130,000 women in the province to let them know their rights. Three or four years down the line, the government, if it is this government, will come—or we will come if we are the government—to actually make the necessary legislative changes.

It has been pointed out here tonight that these changes will require rethinking and adaptation as far as employers are concerned. Some mediation and conciliation will be useful, in addition to strict enforcement of the terms of the new law we have proposed or as it has been proposed federally.

I acknowledge all of those things, but the government will not start that process of adaptation until it gets to the starting line and crosses it. The government is adamantly refusing to get to the starting line and cross it. It is saying, "Maybe the problem is not so bad, maybe it is not so serious and therefore we are going to try once again with something that has been proved not to work."

The reason it has been proved not to work is that even where women are paid equal pay for equal work, their chances of getting access to those equally paid jobs are extremely limited.

9:20 p.m.

I cite the example of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario clerks, because I am a regular patron of the LCBO. Ten years ago in this Legislature, I raised a case of discrimination against women. It involved the fact that the LCBO would not hire women to serve as liquor store clerks; it would hire only men. It said the reason was that women were not capable of lifting the liquor crates. There were some old crocks in the liquor stores who likewise were not capable of lifting the crates.

If one works it out, a crate containing 12 26-ounce bottles weighs approximately the same as a year-old child. Most healthy women who bear children are capable of lifting a year-old child who is not only difficult to carry but also wriggles, squiggles, squirms and so on in a way that liquor crates normally do not, unless one has imbibed some of the contents.

In other words, an irrelevant job qualification was imposed. Women were deemed not to be capable of meeting it and were kept out of a job that paid much more than many jobs women occupy as secretaries, clerks, waitresses and that kind of thing. A liquor store job pays \$9 an hour these days, or maybe a bit more. It is a job women are capable of handling, but even to this day when I go into my liquor store I do not find women. The only place I find women is in the self-service stores where they serve at the cash and, guess what, the cashiers in the self-service liquor stores are paid less than the clerks in the traditional liquor stores run by the LCBO.

Those job barriers exist all over the place. I can recall talking to a woman who worked at de Havilland. I asked her how she got into de Havilland. She said, "There used to be lots of us." She went into de Havilland during the war. During the war women were deemed capable of working as machinists, assemblers and welders, doing all the complex, highly technical jobs needed to make planes to fight with. After the war de Havilland stopped hiring women.

When I talked to this woman three or four years ago, she was one of only half a dozen women still left on the shop floor at de Havilland. Everybody else had been pensioned off and the company had been quite studious about not replacing them and providing opportunities for women.

Equal pay for work of equal value legislation is not going to solve that problem on its own, but it is going to solve the problem for women who are already in the labour force. It will ensure equity for them and it will also be a clear signal in

Ontario that this government is prepared to show it means business about ensuring that women are genuinely treated as equals and are not subject to systemic discrimination.

The words "systemic discrimination" are probably unfamiliar to the parliamentary assistant or to the members of the government. What it means is that when women earn 63 per cent of what men earn, it is not just an accident and it is not just because of one employer who is particularly nasty with women compared to men in that employer's work place. It means far more than that. It means that systematically and consistently in every respect, in hiring, promotion, careers and training, the Ontario government and employers throughout this province discriminate against women.

I mentioned the Ontario government and I will give an example of that. The government is responsible for apprenticeship programs in Ontario. In March 1981—and little has changed since then—only 21 women were apprenticed in the construction trades compared to 12,391 male apprentices. Those trades were paying up to \$15 an hour at that time.

There were 49 women training to become mechanics or getting other training in the motor trades, compared to 12,380 men. In the industrial trades—tool and die workers, steamfitters, millwrights, machinists, etc.—there were only 13 women out of 3,100, and there were only 91 in all in the nonregulated trades.

This is a program that has been in existence for more than 20 years, run by this government. It has been run by a government that tells us now: "Trust us. Trust the program. We have five more officers and we will clean it all up. We are going to bring women right up to what men earn and it is going to be done right away because of this legislation."

I cannot trust a government that says that when fewer than five per cent of the apprenticeships in Ontario are currently being made available to women and most of the women receiving apprenticeships are women in only one trade, which is hairdressing. If hairdressing is excluded, the proportion of women taking apprenticeships is down to about one or two per cent. Yet everybody knows the skilled trades are where the best opportunities and the best incomes have traditionally been, and the best chances of breaking through the cage of inequality that surrounds women in the work place today.

I will give another example of how this government deals with women in terms of the inequality of women and the unequal treatment

they get. These figures date from 1982. The interesting thing is that in 1980 and 1981—it may have changed a bit since then, but not very much—the staff development and training being offered in the civil service amounted to an expenditure of twice as much for each male worker in Ontario as it did for each female worker.

Males were being allocated 73 per cent of the total money, 68 per cent of the total days off and 70 per cent of all managerial, technical and professional training. This is hardly equal access; it is hardly equality. When we do not have that, it is extremely difficult to get equal pay for work of equal value, according to the system the government has, because the government says, "We are going to pay you equally when you are in the same job."

If men get 70 per cent of the managerial training, clearly men are going to get 70 per cent or more of the managerial jobs. Women are not going to get the managerial jobs, so the question of whether they are getting equal pay for equal work will be a nonquestion, a non sequitur, an irrelevant question because it does not apply. That is the problem in the public sector and in the private sector as well.

In the throne speech a few unhappy weeks ago, the government talked about an affirmative action program to ensure better treatment for women in agencies, boards, commissions, boards of education and that kind of thing. It came to the crunch just a couple of weeks ago, when the Ottawa Board of Education was hiring for a superintendent position. Almost all the superintendent positions right now are held by men. They pay far more than teaching positions. Of course, would one expect anything less with this government in power? Guess how many women were considered on the long list for the job? One out of 11, and a male has been hired.

This is hardly equal access and it is hardly a ringing endorsement of the principle of affirmative action, such as has been promised by the ministry. I think only five per cent of the principals in Ontario schools are women. Women cannot even get into the supervisory courses because the people who choose candidates for the supervisory courses are men. Those men choose on the standards they have found traditionally acceptable, and those standards do not count the values women can bring into supervisory positions.

The other day, I was up at Northern Secondary School here in Toronto for Education Week. This is a school with an enrolment that is 50 per cent

female. The principal was male; the first vice-principal was male; the second, third and fourth vice-principals were also male. There was not a single female at the senior level of administration in that school. That is scandalous and shameful.

We cannot talk about ensuring that women vice-principals get equal pay for equal work when women cannot even get in to become vice-principals in the first place. We need to have affirmative action programs in order to get them there. We also need to have equal pay for work of equal value legislation to ensure that when women are holding a job which entails the same responsibilities and the same skills on the composite test, they get paid the same.

9:30 p.m.

The city of Ottawa is extremely sensitive to these questions, but the other month when it was hiring an equal opportunity affirmative action co-ordinator for the women's program at city hall, even that body fell into the trap. They turned around and said: "This woman, or the person who takes this job, is not going to have a lot of people to supervise. Therefore, we will put her down at a division head, branch head level, rather than the level of a department head." It finally saw the light, recognized it was making a mistake and put that co-ordinator on the same level as all of the other department heads in the city's administration.

That came only after a political fight and a ruckus when people finally recognized what was being done. It was assumed that because it was a woman taking the job or likely to take the job, therefore they could pay \$10,000 a year less, give the job less status, less prestige, less information and less power than the job would have if it was held by a man.

Our amendment seeks to deal with the question of equal pay for work of equal value. We recognize the problems are serious. One of the areas I think is particularly serious is the fact that three quarters of the women workers in the province are unorganized. There are perhaps a few less after some of the Eaton drives that are going on right now, but the bulk of women in the work force today are not organized.

If they have a union, the chances that they can, through that union, gain some knowledge of what goes on and about their rights and then enforce those rights are significantly greater. That is one of the reasons the union exists. Most women do not have that. They feel vulnerable because their boss is constantly threatening or hinting that if they act up too much they may get

fired. In certain cases they are being chased around desks or being pinched on the bottom by some lascivious boss who has no business harassing them sexually.

In today's economy, with nine or 10 per cent unemployed, women feel they have little choice but to hang on to the jobs they have right now because the alternative is to go on unemployment or go on the dole. These are situations that are real right now and are not addressed by the ministry saying we are going to have five more officers and a composite test.

I would like to know how a Portuguese immigrant worker in the garment industry on the waterfront here in Toronto is going to understand what the hell a composite test is all about and how it applies to her position. She may well have a sense of inequity because when she looks at what she does, she realizes it involves the same skills and the same kind of work as men working in the next shop, but the men in the next shop are getting paid 50 per cent more than she is.

How the devil does that Portuguese women, without a union, learn there is a law to protect her, learn to understand the law, learn how to make the law apply, and then stand up against the intimidation and coercion she is likely to receive from her supervisor or employer when she tries to exercise her rights?

I want to recall for the member for Brantford, since he is the one Conservative who appears to be paying some attention, the case of the women at the British American Bank Note Co. in my riding of Ottawa Centre. These women sought to make equal pay legislation work. They failed because of the imperfections in the law and due to technicalities, which I think is part of the learning process as far as making a new law work.

However, at the very least they had something to fight with. They would have had nothing to fight with under Ontario's existing equal pay for equal work legislation, nor would they have had anything to fight with if the composite test as proposed in Bill 141 had been passed without the kinds of amendments we propose.

I talked with some of those women about five years ago. At that time a woman with 20 years' experience checking bank notes coming out of the high-speed presses of the British American Bank Note Co. was paid no more—in fact, I believe she was paid less—than a male sweeper with grade 10 or grade 11 education who came in to clean out the latrines, the toilets, and do other work like that.

If a woman cleaning out the women's toilet is paid less than a male cleaning out the men's

toilet, I do not know how that is defensible in anyone's language.

The women had a job which involved intense concentration. Those bank notes came out of the press at an enormous rate. Clearly they had responsibility for catching errors in a product which was worth literally millions of dollars. An error could lead to very substantial consequences. It was certainly material if one sheet of \$20 bills was released in error without the necessary printing being done. Then clearly something was very wrong.

The job was incredibly intense. With only a couple of breaks morning and afternoon, the women had to be on the job checking the money, watching it. Many sheets of bank notes were shooting out every minute and they had to check them all in order to make sure they were okay. It is not a skill one can learn at a community college; it is a skill one learns on the job, but none the less the requirements of responsibility, of tension, of stress and of intensity all made the job very demanding.

At the same time, the men who started as sweepers had a job where they could lean on the broom occasionally. They could have a smoke when they were cleaning out the men's toilets and could go outside and do a bit of work in order to cool off if it was a hot day. They had discretion in terms of controlling their own time. They were not governed by the speed of the machine; they were not under the direct supervision of a foreman and they were paid more.

Not only were the men paid more, their wages went up. On top of that, the career ladder entry into the skilled jobs—the compositors and other graphics skills; skills that were involved in running the machines, machine minder, printer, technician and that kind of thing—existed for the men who started as sweepers, while no such progression existed for the women who came in as bank note examiners.

I cite that example at some length because nothing would have been done about that by the existing legislation or by the proposed legislation coming from the government. Something would have been done if our amendment is passed, if the government for once could start to show a sense of leadership and commitment to equality rather than simply dragging its feet and trying to backpedal and go downhill.

I was involved in the hearings of the standing committee on procedural affairs when the Ontario Status of Women Council came before us back in February. Sally Barnes came before that committee. You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that

the council has been urging since 1980 that equal pay for work of equal value be enshrined in legislation in Ontario. It has been fighting for affirmative action and has been very much on the mark in terms of the legislative changes needed in Ontario. That was until Sally Barnes came in.

Then my goodness, I do not know where the status of women council was, but its chairperson was suddenly throwing three and a half years of recommendations and policy out the window and saying that as far as she was concerned it was too soon to go that route and we should not be taking the risks involved in affirmative action and equal pay for work of equal value.

The funny thing is, after Sally Barnes was forced to come to an accountability session in front of the procedural affairs committee and after she and the Premier sensed an adverse reaction among a lot of people at the attitudes Ms. Barnes was taking, suddenly she changed her tune. She said she thought she had made a mistake and that yes, the government should go forward with equal pay for work of equal value. I believe to save face she recommended it be begun in the public service of Ontario and then be followed up in the private sector.

I suppose we could expect that from a Conservative. Never impose anything one can avoid on the private sector. That is not good enough. If we have any sense of commitment to women in Ontario, it is to ensure they get something more equal than wages that are 63 per cent.

This government has never been committed to the cause of women. Its actions have at times been criminal. It has had to be forced into every reform. It drags its feet on education, on day care, on affirmative action, on equal pay for work of equal value. Even when there are women in the cabinet, it does nothing to further the status of women. It refuses to see that even in the system for which it has direct responsibility, the education system, genuine affirmative action or equal pay actually takes place.

The government will not listen. It will not be aware women are facing these problems, not in a hypothetical way but every day in the work place. Every day they are facing the reality of having to get by on 60 or 70 per cent of the wages of men.

9:40 p.m.

When our technological change task force went across Ontario and looked at what is happening, we realized we are going to have to build variety into jobs. If people are going to grow in the jobs, they are going to have to have

learning opportunities. They are going to have to have what the Scandinavians call a desirable future, the opportunity for careers, the opportunity for personal growth, the opportunity to move into different lines of endeavour. Those things have to be built into legislation and built into jobs in Ontario.

We are not going to get that as long as job ghettos continue. Job ghettos by their definition do not provide learning opportunities with which women can grow and with which they can move into careers rather than just have a job. We have the spectacle in Ontario that a woman who has been out of the work force for 20 years can come back in and take up the job she had before, and very little will have changed in that particular job. I cannot think it is much different waiting on tables at Woolworth's today than it was 15 or 20 years ago; perhaps the cash registers have changed and not much else.

It has not been expected in this province until very recently that women would be able to take the responsibility. Yet the parliamentary assistant knows, you know, Mr. Chairman, and I know, that every time we get down to specifics and look at a woman who is doing a job that women have just begun to break into, my goodness, we find that a woman is every bit as capable as the men who are working alongside her.

I can remember going up when I was touring a steel fabricating plant in Thunder Bay a few years ago. One of the workers seemed to be rather small. I thought maybe he came from the Philippines or was perhaps a Chinese worker. I went and tapped the worker on his shoulder, "he" turned around and turned out to be a young woman who had just completed her apprenticeship. I asked the supervisors how she was doing at this job—heavy work, welding, dirty environment and that kind of thing. They said, "She is the best person in this entire shop."

I look at my own experience in Ottawa, where our family doctor is a woman, Dr. Anna Sharpe, who at 75 is still going strong. I am not sure how old she is; she stopped adding birthdays about 20 years ago. She is one of the best family doctors in all of Ottawa, and it has been acknowledged that women can certainly be the equals of men in medicine.

We are now seeing women becoming learned in the law. They are not given QCs, I guess because they have not done the right things as far as the Conservative Party is concerned, but they are certainly showing themselves equal to or better than men in regard to what they are able to

do. We are seeing women as entrepreneurs beating the pants off many men in opening their own small businesses and making them succeed.

All of these things are happening, and yet we face a situation where the overwhelming majority of women in Ontario still do not have equal pay for work of equal value. They are stuck in traditional jobs such as secretary, typist, word processor, telephone operator or store clerk—those kinds of jobs. They simply cannot get out, and one of the reasons they cannot get out is the inaction and the nonaffirmative policy of action of the government of Ontario.

We need things like occupational bridging, but we will not get them unless women are paid the same and employers cannot get by with exploiting them by paying less. We need things like job rotation, but we will not get that unless women are put on the same basis as men. We need things like revisions of job descriptions and job classification systems so that women have career prospects and desirable futures instead of being trapped as they are being trapped right now.

I just want to conclude by saying that the amendment my friend the member for Hamilton East has put forward is a positive, constructive amendment. It is innovative; I recognize that. It carries a certain amount of risk. There is the risk that it may not work as well as we had hoped. But the risk of not acting, as I said in the beginning, is that in the first place we will continue to lose ground in achieving equality for women, and they will fall back if we do not begin the road to equal pay for work of equal value in legislative form today.

The second thing is that with the micro-electronic revolution that is occurring right now women are particularly vulnerable. The props are being kicked out from underneath them just as they thought they were beginning to gain some measure of equality with men. Women under those circumstances are in an extremely difficult situation where it is getting tougher and tougher to catch up.

They will not catch up unless we act legislatively to reverse centuries of discrimination against women here in this province and throughout the industrial world. I for one hope we can take that step tonight by passing this amendment.

Mr. Gillies: In replying to the member, I should first thank him for his comments about the gloss he thought I had. I use the past tense. I appreciate that very much. It is something the member and I could talk about at great length.

It seems to me that the bulk of the member's remarks was really directed to the question of

systemic discrimination and the exclusion of women from certain occupations. I hope he would agree with me, no matter what definition we were to settle on in terms of equal value or equal pay legislation in section 1 of the bill, the real thrust of the bill is in section 2 with regard to enforcement or eliminating that kind of systemic discrimination.

I will just review that for a moment for the member, if I might. Regardless of what course we chart in subsection 33(1), subsection 33(2) goes on to say, "No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall, (a) in replacing a male employee," etc., really seek to thwart the intent of subsection 33(1).

Clause 33(2)(b) says no employer shall restrict access to the work as delineated in subsection 1, and clause 33(2)(c) says nobody shall act to "exclude from the work employees of a particular sex in order to avoid the application of this section."

It is the intent and the thrust of the government to eliminate the type of ghettoization and systemic discrimination the member referred to. I feel we have very little disagreement on that point. Indeed, we are very concerned about the type of thing he mentioned. My hope would be that the very example the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) used about the employees of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, that kind of exclusionary practice, could be adjudicated under our subsection 33(2). The employment standards officers will be enforcing every clause and every aspect of this bill, not just subsection 33(1).

On the subject of the education field, again one can hardly disagree with the member when he speaks to the situation in the administrative hierarchy of our educational system. I am sure, in fairness, he will recall that in recent weeks the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) has spoken out very strongly on this point in her speech to the trustees, saying the government intends to redress this situation and there will be continuing thrusts in that direction.

I would want the member to know the Ontario Manpower Commission has recently requested that the federal government change its definition of nontraditional occupations from those occupations that have less than 10 per cent female participation to those that have less than 30 per cent so we can make real strides with regard to training grants and opportunities for women in nontraditional occupations. In that regard, we are moving in the direction the member really wanted to see us move.

That is a practical example of what we are doing, if I may paraphrase the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), in assembling that arsenal of weapons to redress the wage gap and eliminate job ghettoization.

I appreciate the member's contribution to the debate with regard to the philosophical thrust he has put forward and his concern that this wage gap be eliminated for the working women in our province. There is no disagreement there. We may disagree over the terminology in subsection 33(1), but as I said earlier, in case the member was not here, I can hardly disagree with certain clauses of the NDP amendment because they are in our bill. Three clauses in that amendment are in other sections of our bill. So we have little disagreement on some of those points.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a very full debate on the amendment. In view of seeing the debate carried forward, I hope we might see the question on the amendment soon.

Interjections.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: I just posed the question. I wondered if we might be getting to the point where we could clearly proceed.

Mr. Cassidy: To respond briefly, Mr. Chairman, the member suggested I was talking about systemic discrimination and not talking about this amendment. I simply disagree with him, because the fact is that in the current climate we face—and we will face it from now until the 1990s, as long ahead as members care to think about it—the opportunity for opening up existing jobs is going to be very difficult.

People are hanging on to their existing jobs because they are the only thing they have. As a consequence, systemic discrimination which is there now is not going to vanish overnight through a touch of the wand of one of the five extra employment standards officers the member says are being hired.

That is why equal pay for work of equal value legislation is needed. That principle is needed because where systemic discrimination exists right now and women are doing work which is different but is comparable with that of men in terms of skill, responsibility, working conditions and those kinds of things—the composite test—we can address that now and not by waiting to see whether or not when an opening comes up five years from now a woman is considered for the opening. We can do it by looking at the disparities in pay that exist today.

Women are not stupid. They work in their jobs and they know what it takes. They know how

they feel at the end of the day after putting in a full day's work. They know they feel just as tired and strung out as one of their male fellow workers. If we tell them that in five or 10 years, some Tory manana, "We are with you all the way, baby," that is simply not good enough. The government has to be prepared to respond to those very real needs right now.

I would remind the member that those women who are being discriminated against are not people earning pin money; they are people who come from families where, if there is a spouse, the income is quite likely to be less than \$18,000 or \$20,000 a year. They may well be single women; they may be widowed, divorced or separated. In many cases, those women trying to scratch by are single mums who are trying to support one or two kids.

On the one hand, the government zaps them with increased fees for day care or makes day care inaccessible. On the other hand, the government tells them they have to pay for their apartments, for their OC Transpo passes, for their food and everything else with dollars that will go only 63 per cent as far as the dollars that are paid to men.

That is the situation and that is what has to be addressed. I would argue very strongly that legislation of the type proposed in our amendment is needed, because systemic discrimination is not going to disappear just because of a couple of magic wands flung in the air by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies).

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clarify what the parliamentary assistant said about the Ontario Manpower Commission trying to get the definition of "nontraditional job" changed to less than 30 per cent of women from, apparently, the present 10 per cent.

I cannot see how changing the definition of a nontraditional job is going to open up more nontraditional jobs to women without mandatory affirmative action. Once the definition is changed, will equal pay be extended automatically to the women who move into those jobs, as he seems to think? Could he clarify that, please?

Mr. Gillies: Yes. I was using that as a very specific example. One of the members had said earlier in the debate, "Please give us some specific examples outside of the aegis of this legislation as to what is being done," so I used that example.

What the change in definition will allow for is the opening up of more seats in these training programs for women and the application of more

grants to that end. So we hope that if these nontraditional types of work are the ones we want to get women into so that they will be competing in the equivalent types of work in order that this bill can be applied, then we are moving in the right direction in that area.

If I might, I want to compliment the member for Ottawa Centre because he mentioned the case of the employees of banks having certain opportunities opened up to them under the federal legislation. I compliment him on recognizing that bank employees are, of course, under the federal legislation, because an argument by one of the members earlier in the debate was using the wage gap within the banking industry as an example of the failure of provincial legislation. Clearly, that is not the case because the bank employees are covered by the federal act, and yet that wage gap in banking continues.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, on the nontraditional jobs, it seems to me we should not be saying there are so many spaces for women in the training programs. We should be looking at areas where women are underrepresented in relation to their participation in the labour force and trying to come to some sort of representation on the basis of their participation in the labour force, rather than having targets that are far below parity.

I hope the day will come when all jobs will be open on a 50:50 basis to men and women and there will be no barriers or quotas of the sort that there seem to be in training programs. I do not think that is the answer.

The other thing the parliamentary assistant mentioned earlier in the evening was that our amendment calls for class actions to be made legal as a method of applying the equal pay legislation to a large group of people together, instead of having each case fought as an individual case. He said the government is presumably moving towards class action because the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has indicated he is looking at it after the recent reports of the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

I am sure he must be aware that Mr. Lawlor, a former member of this Legislature, introduced a class action bill at least three or four times in a row and every time the government either talked it out or let it die on the order paper. I have no more confidence that the Attorney General is going to move in that field than I had when the other bills were before this House while Mr. Lawlor was in it.

To hold that out as a reason for rejecting our amendment, because the government is going to

do something in the near future on one of the important sections of the bill, seems to me asking us to buy a pig in a poke.

Mr. Gillies: I remind the member that if we hark back to that part of the debate, yes, I made the argument about the Attorney General looking at the whole question of class action suits and class action generally. We hope there will be legislation in that area, but I also want to make the point that a trade union local can make a complaint on behalf of a group of employees and that complaint will be entertained by the employment standards officers. In some cases it is possible for a group of employees to band together and put together a quasi-class action. It is not strictly necessary for each case to be adjudicated individually in such cases.

Ms. Bryden: I point out that very few women are organized in trade unions at the present time. The vast majority are not. We do need the class action approach to back them up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat overwhelmed by the irony here that in the ultimate men's club to which only 13 women have been given entrance in the last 100-and-some years we are debating a question which fundamentally comes down to the power of the patriarchy in Canada and in Ontario. We are again coming up with too little far too late, with no major outcries by the three women represented on the government side of the House and the men in the House on the whole not giving this the—

10 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: There are four.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member counts better than I do.

The four women on the government side and the men on all sides of the House are arguing at this point over an amendment put forward by the member for Beaches-Woodbine on behalf of our party that would put some teeth or some better definition into an act which otherwise is mostly dressing and very little substance.

I feel compelled to talk a little bit, as other members have, about the context in which we find ourselves of the relative role of women in our society in terms of power. Their lack of power is shown by their economic status in our society and, I think, by the very nature of the legislation which requires us, in 1984, to be looking at extending notions of equal pay legislation, even if it is in the somewhat limited fashion the government is proposing.

As you probably know, Mr. Chairman, I have been travelling around the province a great deal in the last number of months to look at the issues of poverty. If there are inescapable conclusions, besides the fact that there are more poor people today in Ontario—poverty being a relative thing—than there have been in the past decade, the most inescapable conclusion of all is that women are the biggest single group of poor people in our society.

If we look at the recipients of social assistance and at the number of elderly people who are living in poverty, inevitably it is women who are victimized. That is symbolic of our whole political and economic structure, the role of the family in terms of who is the head of the family and who has the economic power within the family in our society.

The fundamental thing underneath what we are talking about here in terms of affirmative legislation is to assist women to come out of that position of relative poverty and to have the same access within the work force to power in economic terms that will provide them with as much political power as men have.

All the statistics have been used by other members. There is no need to go over them again in terms of the amounts of money of people who are actually working, what women receive in comparison to men and how little change in real terms there has been there. As somebody put it earlier on, they cannot eat terminology, "they" being the women of this province, many of whom are now single-parent breadwinners and more of whom will be.

The parliamentary assistant knows, having been on the standing committee on social development through our hearings on child abuse and wife battering, that as many as 70 per cent of the women who will be in the work force will have been through a single status at some point or other after marriage. It will very possibly happen in the coming decades. While women continue to be victimized, as a society, we will continue to be impoverished.

Women who have gained more power than others in the structure, and there has not been a great deal said about that tonight, have been women who have come together collectively, who have unionized. I have some some figures here that I will bring to the parliamentary assistant's attention. The figures have been provided by Statistics Canada.

If we look at the difference between the wages of unionized workers, both men and women, and nonunionized workers, the average hourly wage

is \$10.17 for men and \$8.72 for women, when they are unionized, a difference of 16.6 per cent. When they are nonunionized, the average wage is \$9.60 for men and \$7.16 for women, a difference of 34 per cent.

It is also obvious that the lowest-paid people can be found in nonunionized categories, and in those categories we find a greater preponderance of women. The message there is one of empowerment again, of the actions that must be taken if women are going to find their true place in the power structure of this society.

They must participate in unions. They must participate in the retail revolution that is taking place in Eaton's, Simpsons and other such groups, which are getting their fair share in those terms. They must participate in the banking institutions or in the provincial wings of those banking-style institutions, since the member wants me to stick totally to provincial jurisdiction.

They must be allowed to take over power within the unions as well. Thank God, over the last little while we have seen some moves within the union movement to provide that kind of power to women in that structure.

I suggest the government of Ontario has a very serious role to play and it has taken it quasi-seriously in the past. It has been one of the first to have equal pay legislation, it is true, but any measurement of where women find themselves relative to men in our society today would say that legislation has not worked and is in need of major revision.

Instead, what has been proposed is a few changes in wording in terms of what can be dealt with, an addition of a number of workers to investigate cases through random searching and auditing the member has mentioned earlier on, and that is it.

What is really needed is a major, concerted, co-ordinated effort in terms of affirmative action. It has to take place in terms of work-place day care, real accessibility to day care—because without that women will not have an equal access to the work place—and in terms of the notion of providing real opportunity for women within the work place.

As a basic touchstone at this point, it needs equal pay for work of equal value in a way that can systematically be worked on and not just on a slight extension of the notion of equal pay for equal work, which is what is being suggested by the government.

That is why, although I take what the member has said seriously in terms of the teeth of what has

been proposed under subsection 33(2), I view subsection 33(1) as being as important.

I want to take the member through what has been proposed in our amendment that is different from what he is talking about and why it is important.

Subsection 2 of the amendment speaks very specifically about who would do what. That is what is missing, if I might say, in the member's proposed amendment to the overall legislation. It says:

"An employment standards officer may assess the value of work performed for the purposes of subsection 1"—which is a definition of pay for work of equal value—"and, where the officer finds that an employer has failed to comply with subsection 1, the officer may determine the amount of money owing to an employee because of the noncompliance, including any expenses incurred by the employee in enforcing subsection 1, and the amount shall be deemed to be unpaid wages."

Surely that is what this is about. That is the teeth we want; that is the bottom line. We are talking about an injustice that is definable and needs to be redressed in real monetary terms. Until it is redressed in real monetary terms, it will not be providing the equality we are talking about.

I read what the member has provided in subsection 33(1) as well as in subsection 2, and I would suggest there is essentially a great capacity for employers to duck the question of the equal value of different work. It is really very easy to see how they could presume or how they could argue that certain work was not equal to a very different kind of work.

10:10 p.m.

I look at the cases that have been raised many times in the House about the difference between a parking attendant and a person who is working on a video display terminal, or the cases that have been raised in other parts about the differences between cleaners and people with a specialized skill where the specialized skill is not recognized.

I can easily see how the employer could make arguments about why those things are not the same in any sense and should not be measured against each other. However, if there is an employment standards officer who has the kind of power in subsection 33(2) of the amendment of the member for Beaches-Woodbine, I suggest we will have power actually to redress the bucks.

Subsection 33(3), as the member will know, is one that establishes a composite set of criteria for measuring the equality of different kinds of work

as to the relative responsibilities, etc. Without the kinds of waffling that can be found in clause 33(1)(b), the working conditions are considered as a whole and not individually.

I have no idea why the member does not want to put in subsection 33(4) what we are proposing to make sure the use of separate establishments would not be something employers could use to duck around a situation. It seems to me to be an eminently reasonable amendment that should be considered. I do not believe it is one of the things the member talked about being covered under other parts of the act. I cannot find them anywhere.

I believe it is vital that we have some kind of notion in this act now. Given the rate of new legislation being brought before us and the long wait for class action legislation by the Attorney General, we need class action possibilities in this legislation now.

Let it be superseded later, if necessary, by an overall set of guidelines and legislation on class actions. In the immediate short term, when the structure is considered, when it is considered that the nonunionized, unorganized workers are more likely to have the larger gap and a high representation of women, and do not have the capacity at that point to have a union representing them, class action for unorganized workers is crucial and vital.

The member will know how hard it is to get a first contract. He will know how difficult it is and the kinds of strikes people have gone through at Radio Shack, Fleck Manufacturing and other places trying to get a union established and a first contract when they are at the lower levels of income. I think back to the Irwin Toy strike where essentially those people were fighting for a first contract of about 10 cents above minimum wage.

Many workers are not willing to take on that battle because of the incredible wall in front of them. This is especially so for women workers, many of whom will be more easily victimized and more easily exploited by employers because of their desperate need for work and the fact that during this high unemployment period they are easier to victimize. We do not need to say to them, "First you must have a union contract and then you can come with a class action."

Even though I would question whether it is really class action that the member is talking about, we need to have it written down very specifically in legislation that a group of women in an unorganized shop, who feel that in another part of the unorganized shop men with fewer

qualifications or less responsibility are receiving money in larger degree than they are, would be able to come together for some kind of solidarity to be able to bring forward their complaint.

The member will know how easy it is to take advantage of individuals in the shaky circumstances a lot of those women find themselves in. I find it difficult to understand why members of the House who have accepted the principle of equal pay for work of equal value would not accept subsections 2 and 3 of what we are proposing in addition to what is already in the act to provide the basic protection these women need.

We have raised in the past, and my leader especially has brought this forward in the House any number of times, how long it is going to take affirmative action programs as they are structured at present under this government to get equality in the work place. I recall that 1,800 years was one of the figures used if we continued to move at the rate we are moving in Ontario.

We need now some kind of gesture that is not just a dressing up of the existing legislation for equal pay for equal work.

We need some major new plank with major new emphasis in terms of equal pay for work of equal value and we need it now.

In all sincerity and in no way in respect to a trendy political analysis around the gender gap, I suggest that as a Legislature—and I place the responsibility on all members past and present—if we continue to have a patronizing view of legislation for protection of women and their slow, staged movement up to equality in our society, the anger of women in the community will show itself very directly at the polls. I say that as a threat to all members of the House in very clear and unequivocal language. They will not put up with being hoodwinked again or, not even to be as negative as hoodwinked, to be given half the apple.

We have seen that, and if we look at what has been brought forward as legislation, in traditional terms it is very clever stuff. The government brings forward just a new face to equal pay for equal work, then brings in a couple of sweeteners that a lot of us have been wanting for a long time, such as pregnancy leave and other kinds of assistance with respect to changes to the Employment Standards Act—wonderful sweeteners that do not redress the power structure but will be of real assistance to the family.

In traditional terms, both the women's lobby groups and parties in opposition would find themselves in a totally compromised situation.

They would get up and give a mild debate on what should have been done with respect to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value replacing the present situation, but then probably would have gone along and voted for it or allowed it to slip through to get the other kinds of things.

The women's groups would very probably have said to groups such as ourselves as they came to lobby us, "We want you to make the principle clear and we are not pleased with the equal pay section of this, but darn it, we really do want the pregnancy leave provisions improved and they are much better."

We would therefore have gone through some kind of parliamentary charade, as we often do, in respect to the kind of conflict. That is not the message we have received from women's groups. It is not the message that has come from our caucus in terms of its discussions about what it wants to do on this.

10:20 p.m.

Members may be wondering why so many of us have been standing and speaking. We are saying to the government that it will not work any more. That kind of neat little parliamentary shuffle will not satisfy the women of Ontario who understand this issue very well, nor will it satisfy us as a party.

The government is going to have to make some changes in the equal pay section if it wants our support. At Christmas, when this was first brought forward, members opposite thought a little leverage could be used and this could be pushed through fairly quickly. They saw that would not happen.

That was not just one small parliamentary tactical aberration. We will not support this legislation as long as it stays the way it is with respect to the equal pay section, because that in our view is what redresses the power situation, until we see something from the government on that. The government will have us to hear on things—from its point of view ad nauseam, but from our point of view with all the conviction we can muster. We will not take the half apple this time; we want the whole thing.

We want equal pay for work of equal value now. That is the message I hope they are getting from what they are hearing from over here tonight and the other night and what they are going to continue to hear from us. To us, the important part of all this is the key peg in affirmative action going along with the other things I talked about earlier, day care and other

affirmative action programs; that is, equal pay for work of equal value.

I do not know whether the parliamentary assistant is going to respond to me this evening, but I do think he should take that message back fairly quickly if it has not got back to his minister and others in the cabinet at this point.

There is no half battle to be won on this. The half measure the government is suggesting to us is unacceptable. We insist that they put some meat in the equal pay for work of equal value section, that they address the principle with some teeth, or we will be fighting this legislation right to the very last minute and we will be doing everything we can to embarrass them about their lack of conviction around the principle they have supported here in this House year after these many years.

I remind the member, as one of the newer members in the House, that my maiden speech was given on equal pay for work of equal value legislation brought in by Ted Bounsall, the former member for Windsor-Sandwich. I got 45 seconds to give it.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was one of the shortest, pithiest, speeches I have given, and it was probably much more effective than the 40-minute speech I have been imparting to the member now, in that we actually did win the vote that day. I am a little worried that we will not get the member to change the vote on this kind of matter now.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: The minister is about to become quiet, and the member is going to proceed, I trust.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. And what members are noticing now is the self-control that we should all be trying to strive for. I appreciate the Mississauga power struggle that just went on there and your help in this matter, Mr. Chairman. I will not respond to the man in his esteemed position. His old whipship is coming back to him, which is bringing him down to the normal kind of level we would have expected from him.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I would have to go down a long way to get down to your level.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is lovely to see the Minister of Revenue here tonight.

Mr. Chairman, at this point, just to refresh myself and to keep me out of the nastiness that could arise, on behalf of my colleagues I will adjourn the debate.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of the whole House reported one bill without amendment and progress on another bill.

The House adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

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Tuesday, May 8, 1984

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- Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
- Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
- Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
- Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
- Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
- Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
- Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 10, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 10, 1984

The House met at 2:05 p.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SHOOTING INCIDENT AT QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I understand there has been agreement that we would alter the normal orders of the day.

Hon. Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Rae, moved resolution 4:

That in the light of the tragic event which occurred in the Quebec National Assembly on Tuesday, May 8, the Speaker convey to the President of that assembly the heartfelt concern and sympathy of the members of this House over the loss of life and injuries sustained by those dedicated men and women who have been servants of that House;

And that this House recognize and salute the Sergeant at Arms of the Quebec National Assembly for his selfless and courageous action to prevent further loss in the face of grave danger;

And that the members of this House join in extending personal messages of condolence to the President and all members of the Quebec National Assembly and to the bereaved and the assurances of the fraternal support of this House.

L'hon. M. Davis, secondé par M. Peterson et M. Rae, a proposé résolution 4:

Qu'il soit résolu que, suite à l'événement tragique qui a frappé l'Assemblée nationale du Québec le mardi 8 mai, le président fasse part au président de l'Assemblée nationale de la profonde sympathie qui anime les députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario face aux décès tragiques et aux blessures subies par des hommes et des femmes au service de l'Assemblée nationale;

Qu'il soit résolu que nous, de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario, rendions hommage au sergent d'armes de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec pour le courage et le dévouement dont il a fait preuve pour épargner d'autres vies;

Qu'il soit résolu que les députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario offrent leurs condoléances aux familles des victimes de cet événement et assurent le président et les députés

de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec de leur appui fraternel.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: This, I believe, affects all members of this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

REPORT ON TRUST COMPANIES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the House for being premature in my intervention.

Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: My matter of privilege relates to an article that appeared on page 22 of the Toronto Sun yesterday, entitled "Trust Proposals Queried." It is a record of the report of the standing committee on administration of justice regarding its reference on trust companies.

The report is based on a press release dated May 8, 1984, released to the press gallery at about 6 p.m. on Tuesday in the name of the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn), the chairman of the standing committee on administration of justice. It specifically gives a number of the recommendations of the standing committee report, a report that had been prepared in camera and was to have been released in the Legislature probably next Monday.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I draw to your attention that this matter was raised by my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) on December 12 and 14, 1983; that at your request the matter went before the standing committee on procedural affairs; that the committee was discussing this very issue today; and that a number of us on the committee have declined requests from members of the press gallery to have an advance copy of the report on the assumption that all members of the committee intended to wait until the report had been made public by tabling in this House.

I would also draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to a note in a memo given to our standing committee just this morning from the acting clerk of the committee, Graham White, which states specifically it is crystal clear in Britain and in Ontario that the premature publication of a committee report prepared in

camera constitutes a breach of privilege, not only by the informant but also by the reporter and the publisher.

I would therefore ask for the Speaker's consideration and his action on what would clearly appear to be a breach of the privileges of the members of this House with respect to both the press release of the member for Lakeshore and also the subsequent publication in the Toronto Sun on the basis of that report, with particular emphasis on the action of a member who is not simply a member of the committee but is its chairman.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I would like to point out to the honourable member that is probably more properly a matter of order than privilege. I would also point out it is a matter that would require the action of the House, not of the Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: I recognize that, Mr. Speaker, but I would ask if you could perhaps give the House some guidance with respect to this, since your officers are indicating to the standing committee on procedural affairs this is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege.

Perhaps the next step would be for the matter to be referred to the committee on procedural affairs to determine whether or not a breach of privilege took place. I find it ironic that this should take place at a time when the standing committee is considering this very matter. In this case, our party happened to have a dissent to the majority report but had been unable, obviously, to talk to the press about it because we were playing by the ground rules and the chairman of the committee was not.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will certainly be pleased to take a look at it.

[Later]

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation respecting the premature distribution of a press release concerning the report on loan and trust companies by the standing committee on administration of justice.

A release was prepared for distribution to the media and others after the presentation of the report to the House and its adoption this afternoon. Through inadvertence on my part, it was released before the report was presented and adopted.

I wish to apologize to the members of the standing committee on administration of justice and to the members of the House.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Relating to a statement made by the

Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) a couple of days ago with respect to the Hooker Chemicals S area court case, you will recall, sir, in that statement he made several references to me and indeed impugned the accuracy of some of my suggestions and comments in the House.

I am sure, upon research, you will find the honourable minister read very selectively from the transcript. When my staff requested the right to look at the ministry's copy of the transcript, they were denied access by the legal services branch director, Mr. Mulvaney, he, at that point, having the only copy in Canada. We have subsequently rectified that situation and we do have a copy.

On page 5 of his statement to the House, the minister dismissed the fact that the judge referred to his lawyer's argument as being silly, by quoting from two sentences. I can give chapter and verse. Volume 3(b), page 108: "I think it is a silly discussion we are having here but I am willing to listen to any question you want to put to Dr. McKay, so go ahead." That is a quote from Judge Curtin. The minister said this meant that his lawyer, Mr. Philip Sunderland, won the point.

A full reading of the transcript shows, first, that Sunderland did not win any point and that the judge did indeed think the line of argument being taken by the minister's lawyer was, as stated by me in this House, silly.

Later in the transcript, volume 3(b), page 134, the judge chastises Mr. Sunderland following his poor performance with Ontario's expert witness, Dr. McKay. The judge told Sunderland, "Be sure that the witness is fully prepared and that he is aware of what has gone forward with other witnesses in the case and has had available to him such materials as he should have"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member please resume his seat? It is not a matter of privilege and it is not a matter of order, so I have to rule the member out of order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, what is my remedy as a member of this House when a minister stands up and impugns the accuracy of my statements? Carrying it even further, he is factually incorrect when he quotes selectively, and only in a self-serving way, and the true facts are not on the record of this House. Perhaps Mr. Speaker will tell me what my remedies are as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, as well as a member of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I would respectfully point out to the member that a motion of censure would probably be the appropriate way of debating it.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FUNDING OF THE ARTS

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce further grants of almost \$10 million in the year 1984-85 to arts organizations assisted through the arts branch of my ministry. In each program, these grants represent a five per cent increase over the previous year.

With the \$73 million in cultural grants announced April 5, we have committed to date more than \$83 million in the year 1984-85 to assistance to the arts and culture in Ontario. It is very substantial proof of our government's continuing commitment. Let me share with honourable members some of the details.

1. There is \$1,037,480 in core operating assistance for 31 community art galleries. These galleries will also receive assistance through the Ontario Arts Council for exhibitions and other programs.

2. There is \$1,285,000 in core operating assistance for 26 arts service organizations. These organizations may also receive additional assistance through the Ontario Arts Council.

3. There will be core operating assistance totalling \$665,000 for two major arts training institutions we are very proud to have in Ontario: the National Ballet School and the National Theatre School.

4. Last, and obviously not least, there is \$6,707,243 for the 34 major arts organizations taking part in the Wintario arts challenge fund program. In all, the ministry will have paid out \$18,018,168 under this program by the end of May. I have not included that sum in my overall figure. By comparison, \$11,310,925 was paid out during the four previous fiscal years. The increase in the present year is substantial.

These grants, to be invested by participating arts groups, represent double the sum of more than \$9 million in new donations raised by the groups from private and corporate sources during their three years in this unique incentive program. The core operating assistance grants help arts organizations serve their communities, aid the development of artists and arts groups and train performers.

The nearly \$10 million spent in assisting these cultural services is, as I have said, in addition to the \$73 million announced last month, which represents altogether a very solid investment in the vital resource of human imagination in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of the Environment. Apparently the opposition parties do not have copies of the minister's statement.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I will see that copies are distributed.

Mr. Speaker: They have been distributed.

PCB DESTRUCTION FACILITIES

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today proposals for the development, regulation and control of mobile polychlorinated biphenyl destruction facilities.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am glad the honourable member looks upon this as being good news. I look forward to his support.

I consider this initiative to be extremely good news and a positive step in our efforts to destroy PCBs in an environmentally safe manner. These proposals are based on a discussion paper which was circulated extensively in February 1983 to industry, public interest and municipal groups as well as to other interested parties.

2:20 p.m.

As the members know, polychlorinated biphenyls have been the subject of considerable public concern in Ontario and their use and storage has been rigidly controlled for more than a decade in Ontario. Some six million litres of PCB liquids are still in use and a further 1.5 million litres are in storage awaiting safe destruction. While it is possible under our existing legislation and regulatory structure to approve fixed facilities to deal with these wastes, there are no existing destruction facilities in the province at the present time.

Our current plan does not call for fixed permanent destruction facilities. There are two reasons for this:

1. Some 75 per cent of the total PCBs in use or in storage are concentrated in 18 Ontario communities across the province;

2. Effective technology for mobile facilities to destroy PCBs has been developed and proved and is in use in other jurisdictions, primarily in the United States.

On the strength of these factors, we are encouraging mobile facilities, taking the solution to the places where the problem exists. Our proposed regulatory measures are, in effect, a comprehensive design for safety standards under which these facilities will be permitted to operate. These standards will address environmental and occupational health, operation, materials handling, contingency, security, record-keeping and public information.

Specific details of our proposed regulatory package, consisting of draft regulations and testing requirements for these facilities, are now

complete and will be released for public comment next week. Advertisements will appear shortly calling a series of public open house meetings in the 18 municipalities to encourage full public information and informed input to our proposals.

Following this consultation period, the proposals will be submitted to formal hearings this fall before a specially established hearing panel. I hope to see our regulatory proposals finalized by year-end, and then private sector proponents should be in a position to proceed with soundly based programs which achieve our objective, the ultimate destruction of stored PCB wastes to eliminate the environmental and public health risks associated with these materials.

SURVEYORS BILL

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to introduce a bill to revise the Surveyors Act of 1980. As the members know, Ontario has enjoyed a long and honourable tie with the surveying profession. Ontario's land surveyors have contributed greatly to the development of this province.

The Association of Provincial Land Surveyors was formed in 1886 by 36 Ontario surveyors. In 1892 it was incorporated as a professional organization with the passing of the Ontario Land Surveyors Act. Over the years, the act has been amended whenever technological advances warranted it. These revisions have reflected the need to establish, maintain and develop standards of knowledge, skill, qualifications and professional ethics among professional land surveyors. The result of these revisions to what is now the Surveyors Act is a strong, professional Ontario surveying community.

As with any scientific and technical pursuit, surveying is a profession of change. My intention today is to introduce revisions which accurately reflect recent changes in the capabilities of this profession.

The new act will incorporate four different, but related specialized surveying disciplines under one statute. These four specialized fields are cadastral surveying, which deals with surveys to establish, define, locate or describe property boundaries and corners; photogrammetry, which is the science of obtaining information about land or structures through photography; hydrography, which is the science of surveying, describing and mapping seas, lakes and rivers, especially to determine their use for navigation; and geodesy, which is the science of determining the size and shape of the earth and the interrelationship of points on its surface.

The revised act recognizes the professional contributions of each of these disciplines. At the same time, it unites these professionals in a complementary and workable way.

I would remind the members that the Health Disciplines Act brought together dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry and pharmacy under one statute. This revision to the Surveyors Act reflects a similar kind of thinking.

I would like briefly to inform the House of some other important aspects of these revisions.

First, the members of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors will be divided into two groups: those who are licensed under the act and those who hold certificates of registration. A licence will be required to practise cadastral surveying. Persons qualified in photogrammetry, geodesy and hydrography will be entitled to certificates of registration.

Similar to the Health Disciplines Act, the revised act will establish a number of committees designed to protect the public interest. They will cover such areas as complaints, fee mediation, disciplinary measures and other professional standards. Any regulations the association wants to make will be subject to review by myself and the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

As members can see, these revisions are designed to accommodate the increased specialization in the surveying field within one expanded professional association. They ensure that the profession will maintain the first-rate level of service that we in Ontario have come to expect.

I know members will join me in welcoming these revisions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GRANGE COMMISSION INQUIRY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I have a question for the Premier regarding the Grange royal commission.

I am sure the Premier has been following the inquiry on a daily basis and is aware of some of the confusion that has developed with respect to the responsibilities and rights of the commissioner at phase 2.

Given the fact that in some minds at least there appears to be a lack of clarity or direction, will the Premier consider issuing a new order in council to clarify the responsibilities of the commissioner in that case to avoid more court cases, appeals and delays, so that everyone concerned understands exactly the intention of the Attorney General and the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is quite as simple as saying "the intention of the Attorney General or the cabinet."

I have followed the deliberations at the Grange royal commission very carefully and have expressed no views on the matter because I do not think it would be appropriate.

It has been my experience that in a number of instances the terms of reference for royal commissions have been handled by the commissioner himself with the assistance of legal counsel. Obviously during the course of this inquiry—more so than in some, I guess—a number of legal issues have been raised and some of them have been resolved.

I can only go by press reports as to whether something may come from the commissioner or the royal commission to the government with a request for further definition. As recently as noon today, to my knowledge, the Ministry of the Attorney General has had no request for something of this nature.

At this moment I would not want to indicate that there would be or even should be any changes. I am not in a position to make that assessment. However, I sense from some of the press reports that some request may be forthcoming from the commission. That is my impression. As I say, roughly as of noon today, there has been no such request or suggestion and it may be there will not be any.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: This royal commission is a creature of the cabinet in that the original reference came by way of an order in council. It has the powers prescribed to it as well as under the act.

I think we all recognize this is a unique situation. We recognize some of the difficulties. We know they are moving into phase 2 of the operation, which will be different from phase 1. To avoid going back to the court with appeals, cross-appeals and months of delay, would it not be a good idea for the cabinet to take the initiative, since it created the royal commission, and clearly define what it feels the responsibilities of the commissioner are? Surely this thing has been delayed long enough now.

Everyone is interested in getting the truth about the second phase, which happens to be the determination and report on the circumstances surrounding the investigation, institution and prosecution of the charges. Given that, I think the Premier could help the commissioner by giving him a clear definition. I would ask him to

consider that, along with his caucus colleagues, sooner rather than later.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will make one or two observations. I recall very vividly in this House the rather extensive rhetoric by the Leader of the Opposition urging that a public inquiry of this nature be undertaken. My recollection is he suggested it should be in fairly broad and general terms and that there be very few limitations upon the function of this royal commission. That is my recollection, and I may be incorrect in that. The royal commission was established by order in council of the cabinet of this province, and I would remind the Leader of the Opposition he was very much in support of going this particular route. That is my recollection, and I think it is accurate.

In my experience, any time terms of reference for a royal commission are adopted, they are rarely totally definitive, to cover every possible legal discussion that might take place. I can sense a different scenario, in which the Leader of the Opposition would take great exception to the cabinet of this province "directing" the chairman of a royal commission to do certain things. I am quite prepared, as head of the government and on the advice of the Attorney General, if some alteration were felt to be necessary or helpful, to give that consideration.

I do not intend to give a commitment that we will as a government "direct" the chairman of the commission or give a guarantee that as part of this process there will be those occasions, even with greater definition, where some avenues for some will be in a reference to the court to adjudicate certain sensitive matters. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition is being realistic if he does not sense that, with the establishment of a commission of this nature, sometimes these references to the courts may arise. In my limited experience, I have never seen any draft terms or final terms of reference that can preclude that eventuality.

Obviously, as a government we are interested and concerned, but I cannot give the Leader the Opposition an assurance that we will "direct" the chairman of this royal commission on what he should do.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Premier will agree, having heard such extensive evidence from the nurses at the Hospital for Sick Children, that the commission will at least be allowed to hear equally extensive evidence from the hospital administrators and authorities and from the police with respect to their conduct throughout the entire matter. Surely that is only fair.

Will the Premier ensure that the terms of reference will not be changed simply to satisfy the objections of police counsel and that the public will be assured that, having put the nurses through such an ordeal, there will at least be an equal investigation and assessment of the conduct of those who were in positions of responsibility and authority from the time of the very first death until the time the charges were laid?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I sense a suggestion from the leader of the New Democratic Party that we should not interfere with the existing terms of reference or give directions to the commissioner. I cannot give any guarantees about exactly what will occur at a commission hearing of this nature. The leader of the New Democratic Party knows this. It would be improper for me to express points of view.

I have been following the inquiry. I cannot say I am totally knowledgeable about all the arguments that have been made or the points of view that have been expressed by the legal counsel who are there. I think it would be unfortunate if the head of government or the Attorney General were to express a point of view.

I hope the leader of the New Democratic Party understands that I am not in a position to give assurances of one kind or another. The commission is there; it is doing a very difficult and sensitive task, one that has been difficult for all of those who have participated. I am sure this is the case.

As I said to the Leader of the Opposition, if some communication comes to us from the commission, if there is some request for something to be considered, of course it will be. But I suggest, with respect, that it is premature to make any commitments or even to suggest that such a request will be forthcoming.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the commissioner has now said publicly that he either needs assistance in defining the terms of reference, understanding exactly what his rights and responsibilities are, or there could be an appeal by way of a stated case that could take six months—

An hon. member: Or could not.

Mr. Peterson: I am just quoting what the commissioner said.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: Given the fact that this second phase is investigating the conduct of certain police officials, the police—people directly under the supervision of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor)—would the

Premier not feel we should proceed with dispatch and clear up this matter now?

The second phase is different in many respects from the first phase. Why would the Premier not take it upon himself to give the commissioner the direction to move with dispatch to clear up this matter which has been lingering for so long?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, although the Leader of the Opposition says, in spite of what I assume has been some exposure to the practice of law and to what is meant in the judicial process, that we can give direction that a commission of this nature will move with dispatch, etc., we are talking here about the rights and reputations of a number of individuals. While I know we are all anxious to see the royal commission come to some form of conclusion, I think it is fundamental that it be done in a proper, appropriate and legal fashion.

I want to emphasize that I, too, hear these reports and, to my knowledge, as of early this afternoon there has been no communication or request from the commissioner for any alteration in the terms of reference. I would be the last one to disagree with the commissioner, nor would I comment on the way the commission has been handled except to say that it has obviously been extremely difficult.

But my limited knowledge would indicate that if it is the judgement of those involved that the wise course is to go by way of stated case, then I do know of stated cases that have been heard and dealt with in a matter of days, not months. That may not be the norm, but I know it has happened.

Mr. Speaker: New question. I would just point out that we have spent an inordinately long time on the first question.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware that we have had many discussions in this House about the shortage or misallocation of hospital beds and any influence it has on the premature death of people who are waiting for those hospital beds. He has consistently stood in this House and defended it and said this was not the case.

How does he respond to the comments of Dr. Druck of the Toronto Western Hospital, a cardiologist, who said: "Two of my patients have died while waiting for over two months for a cardiac catheterization. This means they did not even have a chance to be put on the list for those awaiting cardiac surgery because of the bed shortage."

Here is a doctor saying that people are dying because of the shortage or misallocation of hospital beds. Is the minister now convinced there is a problem? When is he going to take the leadership to do something about it?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member were to check any other jurisdiction at some of the most reputable facilities for the performance, in this case, of cardiac surgery, he would find that our waiting lists here, or the period during which one might wait for a procedure to be performed, are quite in line with those in other jurisdictions. There is not an inordinate length of time to wait in this jurisdiction.

I have discussed this matter with physicians across this province, and I have been assured that where a physician has reason to believe his or her patient's condition is deteriorating, that patient can be placed at the head of the list for emergency surgery.

For a physician to make a statement that sounds as conclusive as the one the member has quoted to me in the House, one that suggests conclusively that the demise of the patient was directly attributable to the length of the waiting period, is not consistent with what I have been told by other persons who, I am sure, are as qualified as the person to whom the member has attributed that statement.

Mr. Peterson: I am not sure of the minister's position. Is he denying the veracity of this gentleman's statement? Is he now admitting that people are dying because of lack or misallocation of hospital beds, but we are doing better than other places and so it does not matter?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Does the minister not think there is a problem? Why does he not address it? There are instances in his own town of Kingston. There has been a public case of a cancer patient who died prematurely because of the lack of a hospital bed. Surely the minister is aware of that.

How much evidence, how many cases, how many deaths and how many statements from practitioners, doctors and experts does the minister need before he is prepared to say we have a problem and we are prepared to do something about it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the member was not able to listen because his attention span would not allow him to listen to the answer I gave to the first part of the question, I suggest he might choose to

read the Instant Hansard because I did answer his question.

I reiterate that the decision with respect to the admission of an individual to a hospital, and the decision with respect to the prioritization of that patient on a waiting list according to the severity of his condition, is not a decision of the Ministry of Health; it is the decision of physicians and the hospital. The member knows that.

As to the particular case the member has chosen to raise with respect to the cancer patient in the city of Kingston, that patient was resident, if I am not mistaken, in Prince Edward county. I have checked into that very carefully, and I think the kinds of statements that were made by the individuals in that situation were not responsible. When one looks at that case and discusses it with the physicians involved, I can assure the member, one gets quite a different picture from the statements that were quoted publicly.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, with great respect to the minister, he cannot deny the hard fact that decisions with respect to priority are being made in a climate of scarcity, in a climate of a limited number of beds, and he and his ministry are responsible for those conditions. He is responsible for the fact that there are a great many people who are waiting for beds who cannot get them and that the priority decisions are made in the most difficult of circumstances. In that sense, it is grossly unfair of him to blame either hospitals or physicians for the fact that certain patients are going without operations. The minister is going to regret that kind of remark and statement.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Specifically, will the minister comment on the fact that because of Toronto Western Hospital's very difficult financial situation, that hospital is going to have to close an unusually high number of beds for three months this summer, and that is going to further increase the waiting list for much surgery which, while it is called elective, as the minister well knows has a dramatic effect on people's health and even on their survival.

Is the minister aware of that fact, and what does he intend to do about it to ensure that all the people of this province have access to health care when they need it and as it is determined to be a priority to save their lives and guarantee them good health?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I was not blaming anyone for anything.

Mr. Rae: The minister certainly was.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. I was trying to point out for the honourable member's edification and that of the Leader of the Opposition the way in which those decisions are made.

I do not know whether the member has tried to do this; however, if he would take the time to sit down with those physicians who are involved, as I have—

Mr. Rae: The minister certainly knows I have.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the member is suggesting they tell him one thing and me something else, then that is a problem for which we will have to find a solution.

When I have discussed the issue of the prioritization of waiting lists of patients for elective procedures, I have been assured that in most hospitals in this province there is a daily review of that list by the physicians. The priorities are shifted according to any indication of a change in the condition of a patient.

In this way, they do address the matter of a patient who may have a deteriorating situation which results in it becoming more critical. I think we will always have those individuals who are saying there are insufficient beds in a given community. It might be true in some cases, but generally that is not the problem. There are other problems that have to be addressed, and I have identified those in previous answers in this House.

With respect to Toronto Western Hospital, which I suppose was really sort of a second barrel in the same question, yes, I am aware it has had some very severe administrative problems which have given rise to some rather difficult financial problems. The board of that hospital has taken hold of the situation and is now in the process of addressing it.

I have been assured by them and by the inspector whom I have placed in that hospital that the proposals they are making to bring their spending within their budget projections will not impact upon patient care. Based on those assurances, I have no further comment to make.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the minister can talk about priorities and about passing the blame off to physicians, as he did in his letter of March 4, when the minister was confronted with the situation at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto, where the grandfather of Mary Anne Kalt was in such a condition that he was suffering spinal meningitis. He was in a near leukaemic state because of his anaemia. He had pneumonia and an enlarged prostate. He was told to go home

because there were no beds available in the hospital.

What is the minister's response to that? It was to blame the admissions process and to blame the doctors in question. Why does the minister not face up to his responsibilities and realize that the situations at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto Western Hospital and Kingston are not isolated situations? They are symptoms of a system that needs drastic reorganization.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable member it will get reorganization. Again, she persists in throwing the matter of blaming people at me. I was not blaming anyone.

Mr. Wrye: It just sounded that way.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am just questioning the loose use of the English language. I may be pointing out where a focal point of responsibility is, but that is not the same thing as blaming someone or trying to pass the buck. If I or my ministry were making the decisions with respect to the admission of people to hospital, the member would be the first person in the province to scream bloody murder.

2:50 p.m.

I am not going to identify any specific case in saying this. However, I will say I was contacted by the family of an individual. They were very concerned that they had been told by the physician for their father that he was not admitted to hospital because no beds were available. This was pursued with the physician, and his immediate response to us was that it was not the reason at all. The gentleman had a terminal condition where hospitalization would not have helped in any way whatsoever, but he did not tell the family that.

It is easy for some people in very difficult situations, when they have to face a bereaved family, to blame the government or to say there are not sufficient beds. In cases where there were not sufficient beds, I would not hesitate to admit it. I have investigated case after case where that has not been the cause of the problem and where the government or the ministry has been an easy target. It is so much easier to say, "There are not enough beds," than to say, "I am sorry, but there is nothing we can do."

Mr. Rae: The minister has managed to turn a question of priorities into a question of Russian roulette.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier has to do with another kind of roulette,

interest rate roulette, now being played regularly in this country. The Premier may want to know that as of two o'clock this afternoon the Bank of Canada rate was at 11.72 per cent, which means that in the last two weeks the Bank of Canada rate has gone up by almost a full point.

I am sure the Premier will also know what this really means is that because of the relatively low rate of inflation in comparison with the interest rate bingo that was being played a couple of years ago when the rates went crazy, the real rates for first mortgages and for borrowers of all kinds from farmers and small business people to families are at almost historical levels.

Given that fact and given the shaky nature of the recovery currently being experienced in this province, does the Premier not think it is time to move to provide some kind of assistance for the people who are once again going to be affected by intolerably high rates?

Does he not think it is time for this province to state clearly that it is going to take steps to ensure that the interest rate madness which affected so many people two and three years ago will not be allowed to repeat itself this year in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have followed the career of the leader of the New Democratic Party for many years. I guess the one disappointment I have is that, having moved from the major leagues to the minor leagues here after so effectively raising this issue in the House of Commons and laying the total responsibility for interest rate policy on the then government of Canada, he comes into this Legislature and forgets all the speeches he made some years ago.

First, I thought he would have rectified the matter while he was in a position to do so in Ottawa. Second, I really did not think he would have the temerity to come down here and tell me that he expects Ontario to be able to deal with the Bank of Canada.

There are two points I want to make. Obviously, we share the concern. No one can project with total accuracy—we have experienced people of that nature before—but our best assessment is that there is every reason to believe we are not going to get into the situation that existed two years ago. Second, I think the recovery the honourable member calls fragile is more significant than that terminology would indicate.

The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) can shake his head. He should talk to his friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), to his friends from Windsor and to the distinguished member for Oakville (Mr. Snow). He should

take a look at what has happened with respect to the balance of trade payments, even in this past month. He should see just how significant what has happened in the auto sector has been, and then he can shake his head all he wants.

I do not object to the honourable member shaking his head, because he has been such a negative personality all his life and that is not going to change. I do not really accept the principle that the recovery is fragile. There are still concerns. I have said that publicly myself.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: "Fatuous" fits better than I thought.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If anything I do is better than the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) thought, that is an improvement. I accept that compliment.

I reiterate to the leader of the New Democratic Party, who is a self-professed expert on economic and financial issues, that he knows full well this government and this province cannot affect or impact on interest rates set by either the Bank of Canada or the government of Canada, whichever term he may wish to use.

Mr. Rae: I know it is the Premier's intention to turn lethargy into an art form, and he is coming very close to succeeding in doing that, but I would like to tell him we have always taken the view that it is the job of government to help people who are affected by policies, whether their origin is federal, provincial or international.

We believe in our party it is the responsibility of the government of Ontario to assist people who are being hurt and who are being hit by high interest rates. That is the position of our party, and it is quite a consistent position. I think it makes a lot of sense. It is the commonsense view of most people affected by high interest rates.

The Premier is putting forward the position in terms of the rates that this is only a temporary blip. That is the same view that was expressed to me by Gerald Bouey—or Bouey XVI, as I call him—in 1978 when the rates first started to go up. The Premier does not know whether they are going to stay up or go down.

What kind of rates will it take for him finally to decide, as did the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, that he is going to start taking steps for farmers, for home owners and for other people who are affected by these high rates and ensure that interest rates will not be allowed to choke off the recovery that is so vital for the working people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I realize I will not succeed in an appeal to the leader of the New Democratic Party to consider that one approach that is not

helpful or constructive is to raise fears on the part of the consuming public.

Mr. Rae: Why does the Premier not write a letter to Henry Kaufman?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member's colleague from Oshawa is smiling, but he knows exactly what I am saying. I know the leader of third party thinks it serves his narrow political purpose to go around saying that because interest rates have moved up now, we are headed once again for situations that existed in 1981. I know that is his approach, and I have lived with it for generations. He can say that his concern is for "the people" and that we have done nothing for the farmers, but even the farmer from Welland will tell him we have a done great deal for the farm communities.

Mr. Swart: Less than any other province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Come on. Less than any other province? Who is kidding whom?

The member can call Mr. Bouey whatever he wants; I do not object to whatever terminology he may wish to use. But I do forewarn everybody in this province that the approach and the solution he and his party have to our economic problems, interest rates, etc.—that is, the nationalization of the banks, which is endorsed by the federal party of which he is a part—would not work and would be a disaster for the economy of this country.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario government may not have any direct control over interest rates in this country, but the government certainly can provide some protection to farmers who are losing their farms every day because of high interest rates they cannot cope with, such as 14.58 per cent, which is now the farm credit loan rate; even interest rates at eight per cent they cannot cope with.

What does the Premier intend to do to prevent further bankruptcies from occurring in this province in connection with the tremendously high interest rates farmers have to cope with, along with the other high input costs and the low prices they are receiving for their products? This is something he does have control over. What is he going to do for the farmers of this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member raises a series of rather complex issues. With respect to the interest payments farmers are paying on mortgages, I think this government has taken a very significant initiative in that fundamental area, which is the main capital asset in most farms I know.

With respect to the cost of inputs or the ultimate price for the commodity from the

agricultural community, I think the member opposite would acknowledge, in regard to marketing programs and in regard to a measure of stability within certain commodity areas, we have done quite well in terms of legislation and process here. It is fair to state in that area we are perhaps somewhat in advance of some of our sister provinces.

3 p.m.

To say that we have not been of assistance to, concerned about or dealing with a number of problems in the farm community is totally erroneous. The member should understand that the number of farmers I still know, and I still know a number, are appreciative of the leadership and direction given by this government, particularly by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell).

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Premier said nothing the government of Ontario does has any impact on interest rates. Perhaps he is aware that the extent of Ontario Hydro's foreign borrowings—foreign borrowings, not domestic borrowings—now means the flow of interest payments out of Ontario is dramatic; in fact, Hydro's interest leakage is greater even than the dividend outflow from the foreign-owned oil companies in this country.

Why has the Premier not at least taken steps to ensure the extensive borrowings Hydro has to undertake are carried out within Canada and in Canadian capital markets? Why has he not ensured there is not the kind of capital outflow that is having an impact on our dollar and on interest rates? Will he at least ensure that the borrowing practices of the government do not contribute to a weakening of the Canadian dollar or to the rise in interest rates, which have been so hurtful to the real economy of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Did the member really take economics?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not take economics.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the leader of the third party is an expert in the field, but my understanding as a layman is that if we were to require Ontario Hydro to restrict its borrowings totally to within Canada, we would then increase competition for what is still limited capital within this country. That competition would then tend to escalate interest rates internally.

The member fully understands that the total amount of borrowings by Ontario Hydro, whether within Canada, in New York or in western Europe, is totally insignificant in terms of the policy of the Federal Reserve or of what is

happening to the interest rate policy in the United States. It has nothing whatever to do with it.

The member knows full well that whatever determination is made by this government with respect to Hydro or even some of our own borrowings, will not affect interest rates.

Mr. Foulds: You must be kidding.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It does not.

Mr. Rae: That is a contradiction of what the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) said last year.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You are silly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for—

Mr. Peterson: Two economic giants going at it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's right.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Bellwoods cannot be heard by the chair.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Thank goodness.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

ILLEGAL RENT INCREASES

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about the cost to tenants of fighting illegal rent increases.

The minister will remember the case of the tenants at 2 Nursewood Road, where the landlord was ordered by the Residential Tenancy Commission to roll back a 47 per cent increase on the grounds that he was attempting to pass through new financing costs from the sale of the building to members of his own family.

Does the minister think it is fair the tenants of 2 Nursewood Road have so far had to pay \$4,500 in legal fees to be represented at two hearings of the Residential Tenancy Commission? The landlord is now appealing to the Supreme Court of Ontario and intends to raise his rent in order to pass through to the tenants the costs of his legal fees before the Supreme Court.

Does the minister think it is fair the tenants now will face an additional burden, a third burden, in the area of \$10,000 in order to have legal representation before the Supreme Court of Ontario, even though the RTC has ruled in their favour? Is this the way rent review is supposed to work in Ontario: a blizzard of litigation and a bloodbath of legal fees?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I can only say the government has indicated its commitment to the whole process of rent review with the

expenditure of a considerable amount of money with respect to that rent review process. That amount of money has undergone quite significant increases in the past two years.

I do not think the member was saying individuals should not have the right to appeal the decisions of administrative tribunals. That is in keeping with the common law process and the judicial traditions we have supported in this province.

Mr. McClellan: They have the privilege of paying for it too.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The noise got the member excited and he wanted to speak a little louder. He will have his chance in a minute. The member should relax. His turn comes up next. Take it easy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order. The minister will answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member will have his moment in court. I do not know if he wants to go to court, but he will have his moment in court.

There are processes in place with respect to the appeal process. We have a legal aid program in the province. We have legal aid clinics for those who are unable to afford it. That process is in place.

I am not quite sure what the member is suggesting. If he is suggesting there should be a further increase in what are now considerable expenses on behalf of the public for this worthwhile process, then I think he should say so and indicate how one should raise those funds. The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) will be interested in that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware of the tenants at 3015 and 3017 Queen Street East. Last February they won their first case before the Residential Tenancy Commission and last June they won an appeal about illegal rents. Many of the tenants have been paying \$400 a month and more in illegal rents for the last two and a half years while their landlord takes this to the Supreme Court, using their money from illegal rents to pay his legal bills.

Would the minister give me some idea how he can help these people? These tenants will have to wait for the Supreme Court ruling before they get their money back. They will have to continue to pay the high illegal rents all this time. Not only will they have to wait for the landlord's new application for the 1983-84 pass-through of funds, but they are also going to be told that anyone applying for return of more than \$3,000 in illegal rents cannot be heard by the Residential

Tenancy Commission and will have to go directly to county court.

What assistance can there be for these tenants, many of whom have become unemployed in the meantime and are paying these double rents even though they are illegal? What can the government do to help them at this point?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, I do not have the luxury the member has of being able to say certain things are illegal when they are before the courts. That may be a luxury he feels he has.

From the humble beginnings and learning I had in the process, in which the Treasurer thoroughly and carefully instructed me when he was a student at law school, I do not understand that those processes could be named illegal until a court has made that determination.

As I understand it, the landlord renovated those premises and rented them. A hearing was arranged before the residential rent tribunal as to whether or not they were new units. The Residential Tenancy Commission said they were not new units and made an order with respect to rebate of rents. That order has been appealed to the courts. I do not think that should be offensive to anybody in society. That is an example of a system working well.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, first of all, is the minister aware of the fact that one Bob Spencer asked for a 99 per cent increase in rent in his building on St. Clair Avenue, given the fact the building was worth about \$1.2 million according to his estimates? Second, has he asked his ministry officials to investigate this tremendous, huge, unconscionable increase by Bob Spencer?

Mr. McClellan: Did the member say "Spensieri"?

Mr. Breaugh: Why is he attacking Spensieri?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I could hardly hear the question because of the outcries of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). Would the member repeat it for me, please?

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Epp: I would like to accommodate the minister. I am not sure whether he heard it, but I would gladly repeat the question, because it is important that he understand the situation.

The Acting Speaker: You have 16 minutes left to repeat it.

Mr. Epp: There is a trustee in the city of Toronto by the name of Bob Spencer. He, in his reasonableness, asked for a 99 per cent rent increase on his apartment building.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The minister is going to hear it this time.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am always being interrupted by the New Democratic Party.

The Acting Speaker: Pose the question, please.

Mr. Epp: Given the fact that there is a six per cent ceiling before these increases are supposed to go to the Residential Tenancy Commission, and given the fact that this was far in excess of six per cent—in fact, most reasonable people would say it was very unconscionable even to ask for such an increase—will the minister investigate this increase and report back to the House?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, in all fairness, and I know all members of this House endeavour to be fair and nonpartisan in these issues, I am not one of those who think we should make those determinations about that rent review application when we have a process in place whereby it can be adjudged by an administrative tribunal.

Mr. McClellan: Returning to the question, since he obviously does not understand what is happening with his own legislation, I want to ask the minister how much longer is he going to allow landlords to use loopholes in the rent review laws to harass tenants out of their buildings? One of the loopholes obviously is costly and expensive litigation which amounts to tens of thousands of dollars of additional costs to tenants.

How much longer is the minister going to permit the laws of this province to be flouted by landlords and tenants to be penalized when they try to have these laws enforced, and how much longer is he going to hide behind the Thom commission on residential tenancies before he brings in legislation?

Perhaps he can tell us whether the Thom commission intends to deal with this in part 1 or part 2 of part 1. Or will it be dealt with in part one and a half, which starts next week and which will run on until some time in the far distant future, or in part 2, which is not even scheduled yet it is so far off?

How much longer does the minister intend to hide behind the commission before he deals with some of these problems instead of giving us all his smart-aleck answers?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I know one should not answer the prologue, but with your forgiveness—

The Acting Speaker: There is a question in there.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: You and I both know there was a question somewhere in there between the prologue and the epilogue. Does the member know what an epilogue is? He does.

The Acting Speaker: The minister will answer the question that he finds in the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Very frankly, I understand the honourable member's anxiety about the fact that he and I have both expected that part 1, or phase 1 of the Thom—

Mr. McClellan: I cannot hear the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Is the member having difficulty? I heard him yelling a minute ago when the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) was speaking. I do not know why he cannot hear me.

The Acting Speaker: The minister will answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I know the concern the member has that it should come out as quickly as possible, and I want to assure him quite sincerely I have the same concern that it be released as quickly as it can. I have conveyed that view to the commissioner; he is well aware of my view.

In saying that, however, I do not think either the member or anyone else in this House should be critical of a man who I think has the confidence of all and who has a great deal of esteem in the community. We should be privileged on behalf of the public to be able to get people such as him to do jobs such as this.

Mr. McClellan: The minister is hiding behind the commissioner.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: There is absolutely no hiding. What the member is hiding is the fact that even at this moment, although it may need some alterations and revisions, we have in place a rent review program in this province which I say has no equal in the country. Nobody in this country has a better program, including the member's beloved friends in Manitoba. We should be proud of the fact we have a program in place that is serving the tenants of this province well.

The Acting Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Food has the answer to a previously asked question.

Mr. Wrye: Will there be a private member's question today?

Mr. Renwick: I think this is an all-time record.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have been accused of many things but not that. My Stetson is blue.

The Acting Speaker: The minister will answer the question.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) posed a question which I took as notice. In his question and supplementary, the member suggested the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is in the process of phasing out diagnostic services by the veterinary laboratory services branch.

I want to assure the member this is simply not the case. There has been no reduction in diagnostic services nor is it our intention to do so.

The member also suggested a \$12,000 loss incurred by a Charing Cross farmer was attributable to the fact that the government diagnostic laboratory would not pass on samples after it had made the diagnosis. This is also incorrect.

The unfortunate loss of swine by the farmer in question was not attributable to the lack of services by the government laboratory. Lung samples from hogs were passed on to a private laboratory which the practising veterinarian had asked to prepare a bacterin. The private laboratory was unable to culture the causative organism from those tissues.

The private laboratory's first request for release of the culture from the Huron Park laboratory was made on April 9, 1984, and permission was granted that very same day. The following day, April 10, the private laboratory picked up that culture.

The member suggested there had been a reversal in policy and change of procedures with respect to the availability of cultures and bacterins. There has been no change in policy regarding the release of pure cultures of pathogenic bacteria. In fact, cultures have not been released for many years.

Our laboratory stopped production of bacterins to encourage the privatization of non-diagnostic functions, thereby giving our staff more time to devote to our primary function of providing diagnostic service to the livestock industry of the province.

The member asked, "Will the minister reverse the policy because it has an impact on human health?" All of our policies relative to the veterinary laboratories have, as a basic objective, provision of the best possible diagnostic services with the end result being healthy livestock and a quality product, safe for human consumption.

The use of bacterins is not a complete answer to controlling this type of pneumonia in swine. Judicious use of antibiotics and good management procedures are also necessary.

I want to assure the member, the House and the livestock industry that in the development of our policies and in the delivery of our programs, we place a high priority on disease prevention and control and on the production of wholesome products for the consuming public.

TOMATO PROCESSING

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It concerns a request by Topaz Cannery in St. Thomas to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development for assistance to expand a tomato processing operation.

In view of the fact a request for assistance was made some time ago and this expansion would give a needed boost to the farmers and the economy of the area, which has been hit hard by the recent cut in tobacco quotas, with the effect that as many as 800 farmers could be going out of production, can the minister inform us whether assistance will be granted and when we can expect an announcement?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the member will be pleased to know that the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) has regularly been making representations on behalf of the farmers.

I suspect there must be a setup here. Did the member ask that question so I could point out how much the member for Elgin has done in representing this company in its application, and the growers in Elgin and surrounding counties?

This is the second time this company has made application for a BILD grant for the processing of tomatoes. The first time we did not feel we could justify making a grant, so the company went ahead with the first phase of its program.

I met with the company on several occasions through the auspices of the member for Elgin. I indicated to them a number of months ago that I was prepared to look at an application for the next phase of their plant.

3:20 p.m.

Since that time, officials of my ministry, as well as officials of the development corporation, have been dealing with the company in question. As recently as yesterday, I instructed officials of my ministry to contact the company and indicate that we are prepared to make a grant to the firm in question under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program when it answers a number of outstanding questions about its finances.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I am well aware that the member for Elgin has been requesting an answer. I also had calls and I too have talked to the

minister every day on the phone trying to get an answer. I do not know whether or not the minister, who lives on the pavement in Toronto, understands how one farms, but if one does not have an answer now when it is time to plant, he cannot plant when the summer comes.

Would the minister not agree that there is an urgency in making a decision on this matter, especially in view of the fact that an agreement with the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board to allow a five-year discounting on prices for tomatoes to encourage tomato processing had a sunset clause that expired on April 30?

Can the minister tell us whether this discounting agreement still applies in this case, since the submission date of the proposal occurred before that expiry date? Can he also tell us whether the proposal is supported by his ministry and by the Ontario Development Corp.?

As a matter of fact, 10 farmers have told me they will walk off if they do not get a contract, and the plant is in a position in which it may well close down if it is not granted some assistance through the BILD program.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am very familiar with these arguments; they have all been made by the member for Elgin repeatedly.

I would repeat and remind the honourable member of what I said a few minutes ago. We have indicated to the company that we are prepared to make a grant to it under the BILD program. I hope that if this comes to pass, the vegetable growers' marketing board would, since it is so close to the expiry of the agreement, honour an extension to this application. By the way, there are two applications; there is a second company that we are looking at at the same time.

I would say to the member that if I went ahead and approved a grant to any company that has not yet answered all the financial questions we have put to it, he would jump right down my throat and he would do it with great justification.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that there was a 92 per cent increase in patient-initiated incidents—that is, patient violence against staff—from January to November 1983 as compared to the same period in 1977 at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital? This is one example of an serious overall increase in violent incidents against staff in institutions in the health care sector, which are directly related

to inadequate staffing resulting from government cutbacks in funding.

If he is aware of this, is he prepared to assure the House and the health care sector workers that the occupational health and safety regulations for that sector will not only provide for the installation of mechanical alarm systems, as is now proposed, but will also address staffing levels and staffing schedules as well as patient classification?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member is aware that we have a draft regulation for health care facilities. It has not met with the approval of the various unions involved; as a result, we have agreed in principle to establish a joint labour-management committee. In fact, the group met with me a week or so ago and presented nine suggestions, six of which I agreed to in principle. I said I would take the other three under consideration and get back to them.

In respect to the member's question, once this committee is in place, we will be able to look at circumstances such as he has described in great detail, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the minister's response regarding the committee. Can he also provide a commitment to this House that his ministry will provide the resources necessary—that is, the funding necessary—to this committee to enable it to carry out its meetings and the research needed to ensure that satisfactory, specific and enforceable regulations come out of its deliberations, instead of just agreeing to a committee without giving a commitment for the proper resources?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me go back again to the nine points that were presented to me by the delegation from the trade union movement. As I said, I agreed in principle with six of the nine. I indicated I would get back to them with respect to the other three.

The other three all involve funding. I am having a rather dreadful time, as many of my colleagues are, in finding the funding for the normal activities of my ministry. Therefore, I could not give a snap decision that day as to whether or not I could locate the necessary funding.

I am trying to do that. I am looking into it. I made a commitment to the trade union movement to get back to the delegation and I will do so within the next few days.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, it is fine for the minister to stand here in the House and say he has

agreed in principle with six of the nine recommendations. However, if he fails to provide a guarantee of funding, he realizes his promise to support in principle the other six recommendations is absolutely hollow; it means nothing.

Will the minister agree in the House today that this issue is important enough to take precedence over the kind of money being spent across the province on things like bicentennial celebrations? Perhaps he can divert some of the funds currently going into those kinds of celebrations to the issue of the health and safety of workers in public health facilities across this province. Does he not think it is a little more important than buttons and bookmarks?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the member knows full well I am responsible for the budget of my ministry and not responsible for the budget of the province. I have to get by with the money that is allocated to me each year.

To get to the point, I would hope to make funding available but I am not in a position to do so now. I committed myself to looking into it at great depth. I have not been given the full opportunity to do so as yet. As a result, I will not give a commitment today that I will be able to find that funding. However, I am looking for it. If I am not able to find it, I still think a great amount of work can be done in developing a health care regulation without expending a large amount of money.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, while the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) is here—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Is this a point of personal privilege or a point of order?

Mr. Wrye: It is a point of privilege. The Provincial Secretary for Justice gave us an undertaking 10 days ago to report on the status of the judicial council review on Judge Lloyd Henrikson. I am here today. I think there is a great deal of interest in our community. I would appreciate it if he would get that report as soon as possible.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. You have made your point.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: May I bring to your attention the fact that we spent an all-time record of 48 minutes and 30 seconds on questions today. This meant only two back-bench members were able to pose questions. I suggest this is an abuse of the

rights and privileges of the members of this House and something should be done about it.

[Later]

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I want to correct the record. I believe when I referred to the 48 minutes and 30 seconds, I omitted the word "leaders" in question period. I was referring to leaders' questions.

NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, also on a point of personal privilege: This is a matter which violates not only my privileges but the privileges of all the members of this Legislative Assembly. This matter has only now come to my attention.

I would like to draw your attention to two items published in the Toronto Star within the past two weeks. On Tuesday, May 8, in the Community Calendar section of that newspaper, an announcement appeared under the heading "Ontario Legislative Assembly." It reads: "The Great Energy Debate: Nuclear Power or Alternatives, 8 p.m., OISE auditorium, 252 Bloor Street West, free," and then a telephone number.

3:30 p.m.

On April 30, in the Community Calendar section of the same newspaper, an announcement appeared, also headlined "Ontario Legislative Assembly," with this notice: "Public forum on poor children and the law with Richard Johnston, MPP for Scarborough West, 7 p.m., committee room No. 2." To my knowledge, the Legislative Assembly is holding no such formal hearings with regard to either of those matters, nor is this assembly sponsoring any such events.

It seems to me appropriate action should be taken to ensure that our privileges do not continue to be abused in this fashion.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, under standing order 81(d) about written questions: On December 6, 1983, I placed questions 250 through 256 in Orders and Notices.

I was given a temporary answer on March 27. As recently as April 13, it was in Orders and Notices that I would receive a final answer on May 4. It is now May 10. I have not received any answers to my questions and I believe my privileges have been abused.

The Acting Speaker: The member has put it on the record that he has not received his answers, but it is not his privileges that are being hurt.

PETITION

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I realize it is customary to present petitions without much of a preamble, except what is spelled out as legitimately acceptable by the Clerk, but there is a bit of a background to this.

The Acting Speaker: There is no allocation of time for a long preamble.

Mr. Van Horne: I will simply pass this on, having pointed that out, and the minister concerned will understand.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, urge that the lottery system for programs at community colleges not be used for admission in lieu of academic achievement."

This is signed by 70 people from my riding.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr9, An Act respecting the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario.

Bill Pr15, An Act to incorporate Baptist Bible College Canada and Theological Seminary.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr15, An Act to incorporate Baptist Bible College Canada and Theological Seminary.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Kolyn from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the report on the white paper on loan and trust companies and moved its adoption.

On motion by Mr. Kolyn, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Gillies from the standing committee on general government reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Provincial Auditor be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Office of the Provincial Auditor: administration of the Audit Act and statutory audits program, \$4,151,900.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(a), private members' public business will not be taken up on Thursday, May 17, and also that on Thursday, May 24, private members' public business will be taken up at the evening sitting, not in the afternoon, as provided in standing order 64(a).

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ramsay moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Bernier, first reading of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the bill proposes to amend the act in two respects. The first amendment is to enable an employee either to elect to be paid severance pay immediately upon the termination of employment and forfeit any right of recall, or to retain the right of recall and be paid severance pay if he or she is not recalled within a year of the permanent discontinuance of the business. Where the employee elects to retain the right of recall, the severance pay will be held in trust by the director of the employment standards branch and paid to the employee if he or she is not recalled within the prescribed time, or to the employer if the employee is recalled.

The other amendment relates to the awarding of interest by referees appointed to hear cases under the act. In the case of an application for review of an order of an employment standards officer by an employer, section 50, it is proposed that the wages currently paid to the director in trust be paid into an interest-bearing account for distribution with accumulated interest to the party who is found by the referee to be entitled to them.

Where the director appoints a referee to hear a case following an officer's report that the employer may have failed to comply with or is attempting to circumvent the act, section 51, the amendment authorizes the referee to award

interest on amounts found to be owing to employees. Such interest is to be calculated in the same manner as prejudgement interest in the Supreme Court.

SURVEYORS ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. McCague, first reading of Bill 63, An Act to revise the Surveyors Act.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would like to table the answers to questions 249 to 256, 277, 291, 306, 315, 316, 319 and 320, and the interim answers to questions 300 to 305, 307 and 310 [see Hansard for Friday, May 11].

3:40 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Foulds, seconded by Mr. Stokes, moved resolution 16:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that access to health care treatment and facilities should be a right and not a privilege and should not be subject to geographic or economic barriers, the government of Ontario should incorporate as a fully insured service under the Ontario health insurance plan the cost of medically necessary travel, as determined by a qualified physician, in excess of 200 miles; and further that the government should begin by instituting such coverage for residents of northern Ontario (that is, for those living in the territorial districts north of the French River) within two years of the passage of this resolution and that coverage of the rest of the province be phased in over a four-year period; and further that in the case of a child needing such medically necessary travel, the government give consideration to covering the costs of travel for one parent or guardian of such a child.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for windup.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I will reserve any remaining time for a windup.

I consider this debate to be the most important debate of my political career. If I could persuade the government of this province to accept this

resolution and implement its provisions, I would consider my entire political career justified and a success.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Would you resign then?

Mr. Foulds: I would even make the offer that if the Tories implemented this resolution and this coverage, I would be willing to resign my seat and run against them on the issue.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: I mean quite seriously that I am in my 13th year now in this place, and I can think of no other thing that I feel so deeply about with respect to getting equality of health care for the people of my riding and the people of my part of the province as this particular resolution.

Ontario used to bill itself as the province of opportunity. In a sense, all my efforts in public life have been an attempt to make it a province of equal opportunity, particularly for the residents of northwestern Ontario, my part of the province.

Unfortunately, when it comes to one of our most fundamental rights, the right to health care, Ontario is not yet a province of equal opportunity. My resolution is an attempt to establish equality of access to our health care system for all the residents of Ontario.

Very simply put, people who live hundreds of miles away from major medical centres in Toronto, Ottawa, London, Hamilton or Kingston simply do not have the same access to medically necessary care as do the people in these centres.

The passage of this resolution would make medically necessary services a reality for people all over this province who now face payments into the thousands of dollars to get the same medical treatment and services that a resident in Metro Toronto can get by calling a taxi, taking the subway or being driven in the family car.

What is medically necessary travel? First, it is not travel that is taken frivolously. Second, it is not air ambulance travel. It is travel that is necessary because the home physician of the patient has made a determination that the patient's condition is serious but that the doctors in his or her home community cannot treat the condition. In other words, it is travel that is vital to the patient's health and often to his or her life or death.

As well, I submit that the home doctor must indicate the travel is necessary. But it is not travel that requires the patient to be hospitalized in the home community in the first place. For example, I have had cases where doctors' letters, both from the home physician and from the physician here in Toronto, have indicated the treatment was necessary. If the treatment is necessary and if it is

available only here in Toronto or in Winnipeg or in another centre in this province, then surely the travel is necessary medically as well.

As one doctor wrote, "If to make Mrs. Blank eligible to have her air fares paid it is necessary to have her admitted to hospital for these treatments, this is possible but, of course, represents a waste of beds and a completely unnecessary expenditure of the Ministry of Health money on the home hospital bed." To give this particular doctor credit, he did not hospitalize the patient. But I had to take that particular case to the appeal board and fight on behalf of that patient; and we won the case.

It should be taken as a matter of course when the treatment is necessary and when the patient's health will be impaired if the treatment is not carried out. Therefore, I submit that the travel is as medically necessary as the treatment itself. That is why it should be covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. We must remember this travel is not taken for social or economic reasons in any normal sense of the word. The travel occurs simply so the patient can receive the medically necessary treatment.

Without the treatment, the patient may lose his or her vision, may die because of an impaired heart or die a slow and lingering death because cancer is not treated early and sufficiently enough. Without travel, these patients cannot receive the treatment. It is that simple and that direct.

I also point out that section 10 of the Ontario Health Insurance Act says, "The Ontario health insurance plan is continued for the purpose of providing for insurance against the costs of insured services on a nonprofit basis on uniform terms and conditions available to all residents of Ontario, in accordance with this act...."

Note that the act says quite clearly, "providing for insurance...on uniform terms and conditions...." The section does not say, "similar terms and conditions," or even, "parallel terms and conditions." It says quite clearly, "uniform terms and conditions."

I submit that by making residents of Ontario in excess of 200 miles away pay their air fares, bus fares or any of their transportation costs to Toronto or other centres and back, OHIP is forcing those patients to pay an extra fee to obtain medically necessary services. In other words, they are being extra billed. That payment goes to the airline, but it is a form of extra billing. It is a form of extra premium for the person to get the services. Therefore, these services are not

covered by the plan because the travel is not covered by the plan.

I admit without reservation that there has been an enormous improvement in air ambulance coverage when a patient is transferred from one hospital to another. Other necessary treatments for things like leukaemia, cancer, heart treatment, bypass surgery, kidney diseases, ostomy, laser treatment for eyes and specialized children's services are simply not covered when a patient does not need to be hospitalized in his home community. Often this is ongoing care, particularly for children, and for diabetics who require laser treatment for their eyes.

I also admit that an increasing number of these services are becoming available in northern Ontario, but a good many of them are still not available there or in other outreaches of the province.

The interesting thing is that in southwestern Ontario and eastern Ontario, people do not have to travel to Toronto except in exceptional circumstances because they have specialist hospitals at the University of Western Ontario in London and in Kingston, Ottawa and at McMaster University in Hamilton. There would be some people in southern Ontario who would have to take advantage of the provisions of this resolution, but they would be few in number.

3:50 p.m.

Let me mention some statistics for my home area. Almost 1,000 patients a year from the district of Thunder Bay alone now travel to Winnipeg and Toronto annually for specialist treatment not available in our area. The average cost per patient is \$1,395 each year. There are some instances where families I have known have been faced with costs of more than \$18,000 over a three- or four-year period for leukaemia treatment for one of their children.

I believe there is support for this resolution throughout the province. Since I first raised this issue again this year, some three weeks ago, I have received more congratulations and support than I have ever had in the last eight years of raising this issue.

When I conducted what I admit is an unscientific survey of my constituents, the results were as follows to the question, "Do you think OHIP should be extended to cover medically necessary travel?" "Yes" was 78 per cent, "No" was 15 per cent, and "Don't know" was seven per cent.

A number of volunteer organizations support needy children in particular, but others as well, by helping their families to meet at least part of

the cost of transportation of these children to Toronto. Why should the Canadian Cancer Society in a place such as Thunder Bay have to spend 39 per cent of its budget on health transportation instead of spending it on much-needed local services? In other words, there is double discrimination.

Today I received the following telegram completely unsolicited: "As a club that spends thousands annually transporting disabled children to hospitals and doctors in Toronto, we support any move to improve the universal application of medicine in this province. Much success."

It is signed by the Kinsmen Club in Thunder Bay.

Clubs such as the Kinsmen Club deserve enormous credit. Every single day their committees see needs that are not being met. Members, in particular government members, may be worried about including the cost of such travel expenditures in the health care budget. Based on the research I have been able to do for the district of Thunder Bay, I estimate the total cost for the whole province would be about \$4 million annually.

I emphasize this is a ball-park figure and it does seem a lot of money. However, the total health care budget is \$7.5 billion; the total expenditure for OHIP is almost \$2.4 billion. The total cost of this health transportation would be 0.053 per cent of the total health care budget for the province or 0.17 per cent of the total current expenditures on OHIP. Surely this province as a whole can absorb those costs so that everyone, from whatever corner of this province, can truly share in the province's opportunities for first-rate health treatment.

Four million dollars does seem a lot of money. However, it is coincidentally exactly the amount of money by which the government increased its advertising budget in the last year.

I had a note from the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) earlier today that his ministry was trying to get figures for me but did not have them complete at this time. I would be willing to continue the debate once this resolution passes this afternoon.

The new Canada Health Act reads that we have a right to "reasonable access to health services without undue financial or other barriers."

Coupled with a quotation I gave the members from the Ontario Health Insurance Act, I submit with all my heart and all my spirit that the bills of hundreds, thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of dollars that are experienced by

families, particularly in northern Ontario, are an undue financial barrier to health services and should be prohibited under the Health Insurance Act.

I submit that having to pay to travel 300, 500, 1,000 or 1,200 miles is an undue barrier to getting health services. I therefore urge the Minister of Health—and I regret he is not in his seat, but I notice the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) is here—and the government to remove the geographic and financial barriers to “reasonable access to health services” for people all over this province. We all pay the same medicare premiums and we should all have access to the same services.

If this resolution should pass, and if this government should implement its conditions, this will be, frankly, the proudest day of my political life. If this resolution should fail, or if the members of the government party should block it, I and my party will fight again and again for health services, for access to health services and for health transportation for the people of this province; and I will do that as long as I have breath to speak and a position as a representative of a riding in this Legislature.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Port Arthur has some five minutes remaining.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, before I start my remarks, I wonder if we could have the usual comments from the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes).

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think that is in order. The member for Cochrane North will carry on.

Mr. Piché: I was just trying to trap the honourable member.

I would like to stand in the Legislature today and support the resolution being debated. What I want to support is the major premise of the member for Port Arthur’s resolution, namely, that medical travelling costs place a heavy burden on northern citizens who visit southern treatment and medical centres and that a solution to this problem must be found.

M. le Président, c’est avec beaucoup de conviction que j’appuie le principe de la motion devant nous aujourd’hui. Le coût du transport pour des raisons médicales représente un fardeau énorme pour les gens du nord. Je crois que nous devons trouver une solution à ce grave problème. Ce problème ne touche pas seulement la population du nord mais également la population du sud de la province. Nous avons en place un système qui ne prend pas en considération les besoins

uniques des communautés du nord de la province.

I believe that not only the other northerners who are elected members of this assembly but also all other members of the Legislature are just as concerned about northern issues as I am, and this is a very important issue. As an example, the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) has on numerous occasions discussed this important matter with me, and he has indicated his full support for the comments I am making today.

All members know that our present health system is not ideally suited to serve the unique needs of people in many northern communities. It has also been pointed out that health costs are rising dramatically. I want to add to this that in the north these factors are compounded by the problems of distance and isolation as well as because of the difficulty of attracting medical personnel.

Northern medical facilities suffer from the same monetary problems as in the rest of the province, only to a greater extent because they cannot take advantage of economies of scale; so the fact is that we just do not have the kind of services that are available in large urban centres.

The current policy concerning medical travel is that when a doctor decides a person needs care not available in his community, the doctor can arrange for the person’s transfer to a centre with the proper facilities. The cost of transportation in the case of a hospital-to-hospital transfer is covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. As has already been pointed out, problems arise when a patient requires ongoing treatment. In such cases the costs of travel and accommodation can become very high.

How can such costs be reduced? The member for Port Arthur suggests that travel costs be subsidized under the Ontario health insurance plan. I am not sure this is the answer. However, I do think many other possibilities and arrangements exist.

4 p.m.

I want to remind this House that the cost of northern transportation has long been a concern of many of us. Members of this House will recall that I introduced a resolution last fall calling for a transportation commissioner for northern Ontario. On many other occasions I have spoken at length in the Legislature about improvements to both rail and air service linking the north to the southern part of our province.

I have suggested, for example, that closer co-operation between different levels of governments might lead to arrangements where unused

seats or compartments in trains and even in scheduled aircraft might be set aside for medical travel purposes.

During my speech in the debate on the speech from the throne I described the advantages to the north of the introduction of the new Dash-8 aircraft and its possible use for medical transfers.

Did the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) hear that? I thank him.

I must also stress I contacted the Minister of Health about this very matter long before the printing of today's resolution. I wrote to the minister last fall, and again some weeks ago, pointing out that the complexities of public transportation in the north add to the problems associated with health care. I received a very sympathetic response in which the minister informed me that his ministry, in co-operation with the Ministry of Northern Affairs, is reviewing the transportation problems of patients who must regularly travel to the south for medical attention.

In describing the difficulties of travel and transportation in the north, I think one drawback is the lack of familiarity of most Ontarians with the north. Southerners often do not understand the huge distances involved in travelling in the north. For example, do the members realize we are sitting 50 miles closer to Halifax, Nova Scotia, than we are to Kenora? Incredible as it may sound, the distance from Sioux Lookout to Toronto is almost the same as that from Sioux Lookout to Vancouver.

Once people start to understand the great distances involved, they will also start to understand how expensive it can be to travel. For example, to fly from Cochrane North to Toronto costs more than \$300.

In all fairness, with respect to medical travel, the Ontario government has accomplished a lot by working with other jurisdictions to try to make it easier to transport patients from various locations in the north to other larger centres in the north as well as to other parts of the province.

The air ambulance system has been of great assistance to northern travel. It has brought about quick attention to serious injuries and has saved many lives. For example, in 1982 the air ambulances transferred approximately 9,000 persons in need of medical attention. The air ambulance system includes four aircraft: a helicopter at Sudbury, a jet at Timmins, a helicopter at Thunder Bay and a King Air at Sioux Lookout.

This past winter, Wilson Memorial General Hospital in Marathon completed a heliport that

will provide 24-hour service out of Thunder Bay. This is in addition to the 24 heliports already set up in northern Ontario which are all paid for by the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

There is still a lot to be done in the area of northern health care. On the other hand, those of us who live in the north are very much aware of the positive changes that have come about in recent years: the medical clinics, the nursing stations, the mobile dental units and the extended care facilities.

The whole thrust of the provincial government's policy has been to make the north self-supporting in its health care delivery. We have seen the development, as the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) tells me, of the cancer clinic in Thunder Bay. This is a facility second to none in the province. There are other units in Sudbury which are also notable achievements.

When we consider that the north contains 90 per cent of Ontario's land mass and only 10 per cent of its population, the progress in developing a viable northern health system has been remarkable. The members opposite should give this government credit where credit is due.

I have been pleased in past debates to see that opposition members have recognized the government's efforts and have paid tribute to government initiatives that have provided needed programs and facilities in the north.

One exciting development is that the north is being linked to southern facilities through the use of modern communications technology. For one, the Northern Ontario Ambulance Radio System, which became fully operational in 1982, joins six hospitals and seven ambulance services covering nearly 20,000 square miles. Furthermore, a \$3-million telehealth program creates a two-way television hookup allowing doctors in the north to consult directly with specialists in larger centres.

Telemedicine for Ontario is another part of the telehealth program. Funded by the Ministry of Health, the project will be run jointly by five health science centres and the Toronto General Hospital. The telehealth program has been a major health care benefit to northern communities and is an extremely significant way of coping with the barrier of distance. That barrier can be bridged; nevertheless, it still exists. For a number of unfortunate northern citizens, it creates insurmountable obstacles to access to first-rate health care.

I fully support the policies of my government, but as a northerner it is also my responsibility to point out areas where improvements are needed.

Our system is good; we have taken many progressive steps. I believe it is possible for us to go one step further. I believe we must go one step further and solve the problem of medical transportation to those in need in order to achieve true equality of access to medical services by all citizens of this province. We can ask or expect no less.

J'appuie la politique du gouvernement en matière de santé. Cependant, en tant que Nord-ontarien, c'est également ma responsabilité de chercher des solutions aux problèmes auxquels font face les Nords-ontariens.

Nous avons à présent un bon système en Ontario. Nous avons fait un progrès remarquable dans ce domaine. Je crois quand même que nous pouvons faire un pas en avant, même que nous devons faire un pas en avant.

Nous devons régler le problème du transport pour raisons médicales, afin d'assurer que l'égalité d'accès aux services médicaux existe pour tous.

The Deputy Speaker: I would remind the member his time has expired.

Mr. Piché: In closing, I would like to add, on ne peut se satisfaire de moins que ça.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution. I do so on my own behalf and on behalf of our critic the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), who has about three different commitments at this time. Since she has been our Health critic for the last couple of years, she has spoken loud and long, and I hope very effectively, on behalf of the people of northern Ontario and, for that matter, of all Ontario. That may be the best starting point I can use, because it is important for people in this province to think of themselves as Ontarians and not as southern, eastern, northern or western Ontarians.

It is too bad the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) has to leave the chamber at this point, because he often reminds me there are not too many people speaking on behalf of the north. I want to remind him and others that we take every opportunity to say what we have to say on behalf of all Ontarians.

As evidence of that, I mention the Liberal health task force that travelled this province in the spring of 1982. In the report called *On the Critical List*, which we presented in the summer of 1982, one whole section was devoted to the needs of northern Ontario. In addition, I have been personally involved in the north. I joined the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché), who spoke a moment ago, and others on the

Dash-8 trip. I also spent time travelling north with a couple of committees, the select committee on the Ombudsman being one of them, to make myself more aware of the needs of that part of the province.

Quite frankly, I find the regional aspect and the needs of the north which have been spoken of by the member for Cochrane North and the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds)—and surely the member for Lake Nipigon will have a chance to say a few words too—are not really too different in many respects from the needs of people right across this province.

As far as health services are concerned, these needs include such things as active treatment beds, care for senior citizens, cancer treatment, psychiatric care for adults and young people, additional physiotherapy in certain parts of our province, francophone service in certain parts of our province and air ambulance service. There is a multitude, and one can find a universality in the needs because the need for active treatment beds in London, Ontario, exists as it does in Thunder Bay.

4:10 p.m.

I want to make it abundantly clear that my colleague our Health critic and I, as the critic for Northern Affairs, support this resolution wholeheartedly. The member for Port Arthur addressed one small aspect of the needs of the north when he referred to the cost of travel. There are many other aspects of treatment he could have dealt with as far as rationalizing finding enough doctors and/or dentists to accommodate the needs of certain parts of the province is concerned. We do not have to go much farther than Ignace, Ontario, to find a need in that area.

I am trying to hurry a lot of observations into the few minutes I have. Let me submit the need is such that my own family dentist, a gentleman I have known for years and whom I respect tremendously as a person and as a professional, Dr. Robert Wainright of London, Ontario, will be devoting part of his summer to dental treatment in the northwestern part of Ontario. One can find very obvious reasons for the need for that gentleman to travel. The obvious reason, of course, is that the community is simply not able to attract and hold a person of that calibre on a year-round basis, so it has to reach out and find assistance in other parts of Ontario.

We take the opportunity to speak on behalf of the citizens of northern Ontario as we do for those in all parts of Ontario. When we in the official opposition travelled throughout the north in 1982, we found many concerns to which the

government should address itself. As far as the travel aspect is concerned, I know members of the New Democratic Party have made some public pronouncements on this and there is a recent press release in which specific names of people in northern Ontario are listed. Specific reference is made to costs and the medical problems the persons have.

I am not at liberty to use the names of people I spoke to in northern Ontario in order to give specifics in the House, but I can give examples not unlike those provided today by the New Democrats. Let me take one example. The member for Port Arthur and I am sure the member for Lake Nipigon will be aware of a situation in the Thunder Bay area a couple of years back when a woman in the community was diagnosed as having a problem that required the assistance of an endocrinologist. That community did not have such a specialist and, on the advice of her general practitioner, she sought assistance in Metropolitan Toronto.

Ultimately, this woman not only came from Thunder Bay to Metro but, further, had to be referred to London, Ontario, the community from which I come and one with many fine health services. She had to spend about two and a half months in southern Ontario over the course of the year. Unfortunately, that involved not a single trip, but a variety of trips. Her husband also had to travel and there were other upsets within the family. None of that travel was covered.

There are other aspects of this involved kind of treatment that add to the costs, aside from the upset within the family. Again, the member for Port Arthur could have addressed himself to the wide spectrum, but he is zeroing in on only one aspect of this, which is a very important aspect to the people of northern Ontario. They have as much right to service as we do here in this part of the province, and this right should be accommodated, given that we all accept the breadth and distance of travel and the geography of the north.

I think it is high time we did more than pay lipservice to northern Ontario being big. We all know this, for heaven's sake. Why then do we not accept this fact? Why does the government not accept it? It may not be fair to be too critical of some of the members of the government side. I know the member for Cochrane North on occasion takes the odd poke at his own cabinet colleagues.

I would submit to the members opposite it is time to quit the jabbing and it is time to let loose with a couple of haymakers. Why do they not really insist that the Minister of Northern Affairs,

the Minister of Health, and the Premier (Mr. Davis) quit paying lipservice to the north and do something about the costs people have to face in so far as this topic of transportation costs is concerned?

In conclusion, it is a pleasure and an honour for me to be able to support this resolution, and I hope all members of the House agree with it.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, needless to say, I will be supporting this resolution. The contents of it are something I have advocated on a number of occasions and for many years in this House. I have taken advantage of every opportunity to bring to the attention of the appropriate minister that it is unfair for people, wherever they live in Ontario, to be paying Ontario health insurance plan premiums at the same level as everybody else. People in the south take essential services for granted which are denied to the 800,000 people who live north of the French River and who still are charged the same OHIP premiums as those who take these essential services for granted.

It seems to me that every time we who live in the north bring in a resolution like this, for a variety of reasons, or advocate a different way or a better way of delivering services, there is a lot of sympathy over across the aisle; they say they really would like to be able to do something, but that is a fact of life in the north and there are tradeoffs one must make. If the weather is colder, that is what northern Ontario is all about; if distances are a lot greater, that is what northern Ontario is all about; if transportation costs are higher and if the transportation options are much fewer, that is a tradeoff people must make for choosing to live in the north.

I want to remind all members of this House that while we occupy five sixths of the geographic entity of Ontario, and while we have less than 10 per cent of the total population in this province, were it not for the people who chose to live up there to manage our resources, to keep our lines of transportation and communications open, Ontario as a whole would not be as successful from a social or an economic point of view as it is in large measure as a result of the people who choose to live in northern Ontario.

4:20 p.m.

Members have often heard those of us who come from the north say that if we can equalize the cost of beer or the cost of other alcoholic beverages that are under the control of a ministry and an agency of this government, why do we have such difficulty in coming to grips with levelling out the costs of something that is as

important and essential as health care and the delivery of health services to all of the people in Ontario regardless of where they live.

My colleague the member for Port Arthur has given instances of specific cases where families, regardless of their ability to pay, have spent tens of thousands of dollars in going to get essential diagnostic services and medical treatment in the southern part of this province and in some cases in Winnipeg and even much farther afield.

I have had constituents who found it necessary to go to Montreal for services that were not available in the region and not available in Toronto. I have had others who had to go as far away as New York City. I have had many constituents who found it necessary to go and get treatment and diagnostic services at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, not because they chose to go there, but because it was the only place where these services were available. Yet each time we bring up a resolution like this, everybody is sympathetic and everybody empathizes with the plight in which those who live in the north find themselves, but nothing is ever done about it.

I was pleased to hear the member for Cochrane North speak in the way he did this afternoon, and he associated the member for Fort William with those comments. The Minister of Northern Affairs did not stay around. I am sure he had something equally important to do.

If this resolution is going to succeed, it is going to be because fair-minded people on all sides of this House, from all parties, see to it that it should when one is dealing with something as important and as essential as this, something that is not a privilege but a right for those who keep the health care system going, whether they do it through their OHIP premiums or through other subventions from the general taxation revenues in the province. It will only succeed if we have a sufficient number of fair-minded people who say, for something as basic, something as essential and something as important as health care, we can allocate sufficient resources to make it possible for people who need these essential services to get them wherever they have to travel.

I could bring out a specific example of a little seven-year-old girl from Terrace Bay who had a very serious throat condition that could not be dealt with in Thunder Bay. They had to bring her down to a specialist in Toronto, and they had to do it every two or three months just to save her life, not to make life more comfortable. It was a matter of life and death. She had to travel with her mother. I could give the precise figures of what it cost, but I will not.

I had another seven-year-old from Longlac who suffered from a similar ailment. I could give the precise figures of what it cost on a two- or three-month basis. I want to report, and I am happy to report, that as a result of those regular trips down there and getting that kind of treatment, for all intents and purposes those two little citizens have been cured. Although it is not necessary, they come down periodically for checkups just to make sure everything is all right.

Prior to that, it was a matter of life and death. In both cases, the father was temporarily unemployed and they had to find the resources to fly the mother and the little child down here. If not for the beneficence of some of their neighbours, it would not have been possible for them to do that.

In many instances when I am flying down from Thunder Bay to Toronto, I recognize children suffering from cystic fibrosis on the plane. All members of this House know just how debilitating an ailment like that can be and the facilities required to allow them to lead a normal life. With the kind of treatment they get down here and the mountains of pills they have to take, if those facilities were not available in Toronto, I do not know where they would have to go.

If members of this House have to have chapter and verse, all the documentation that makes is necessary to convince members this is a resolution worth supporting, I am sure I could give them access to my files, as could the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane), the member for Fort William, the member for Port Arthur, the member for Cochrane North and the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope). Anybody who lives north of the French River could recite chapter and verse about the literally millions of dollars many needy families have to spend to get the services available down here.

We think if this House and this government want to do something that is fair, just and equitable, they should support this resolution.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, the resolution introduced in the House today by the—

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, is it in order for me to move that the member for Fort William now be heard? He was on his feet before the other member.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) was the first one I saw. I did see another member down that way. I have a note that if time permits, and perhaps other members could keep it in mind, if a little time accumulates towards the end, then the

member for Fort William is noted as wishing to speak.

Mr. Breagh: They should not be trying to muzzle Mickey.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I have asked the other speaker to give way to me because I live in northwestern Ontario and I am very concerned about this bill. I mentioned to the member for Cochrane North in caucus that I would like to speak on this bill. I do not know why I am not allowed to speak. I am concerned.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to that, I was not being facetious. I saw the member get up. There is a provision in the standing orders that when two members stand up at the same time, a member may move that a certain member now be heard. I was not being facetious and I am not trying to be mischievous. I know the honourable member wants to speak and I just wanted to bring it to your attention, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: I am aware that the member for Fort William did wish to speak to the resolution. As a matter of fact, the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) was standing, for other reasons I am sure, and blocked the member's view. My eye did catch the member for Durham-York and I will have him speak. Perhaps other members could assist by keeping the remaining moments of this discussion short so there would be an opportunity for the member for Fort William to have a few words.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The reason I was in the way was that I got a note from Hansard that they wanted some comments about my up-and-coming resolution. The time of my standing was unfortunate because it did block the view of the Speaker. I wonder if we could have the unanimous consent of the House to allow the member for Fort William to speak.

The Deputy Speaker: The chair is totally in the hands of the members.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I was not aware of any discussion within caucus about the order of speakers. I simply volunteered as a speaker and my name was on the list. I am prepared to go along with whatever the House orders are.

The Deputy Speaker: How would it be if we recognized the member for Fort William, and if there are no objections, perhaps the member might keep his speech to five minutes and give an opportunity for five minutes to the member for Durham-York? That might accommodate every-

body, and then we will go back in rotation to the opposition.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to get on the record, and I will be very pleased to give the member of my party the same opportunity I am getting.

This bill is very important as far as I am concerned. Being from the same area as the member for Lake Nipigon and the member for Port Arthur, I know exactly what problems exist in the Thunder Bay area. They involve the welfare and the health of the people in northern Ontario.

Many people are caught in a financial bind when it comes to going down to Toronto, Duluth or wherever it may be. Some people do not have the funds and they are therefore caught in a very precarious position when somebody is very ill and it is very difficult to get him moved. Sometimes people do not qualify for social services and they are in a very bad predicament.

When the medical services are not available in Thunder Bay, I do not think these people should be penalized in that respect. If one cannot get it in Thunder Bay, OHIP should provide for adequate medical attention anywhere it will suffice.

I have spoken to many people regarding this motion and I support it wholeheartedly. I honestly think it should be a right for the people in northern Ontario, not a privilege.

The Deputy Speaker: In rotation we are going to the member for Essex North, mindful that we are trying to preserve time in our rotation for the member for Durham-York.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I apologize that the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) cannot be here today. I know he wanted to speak on this.

As a resident of Essex county, where we are quite fortunate in having access to many health services, and having worked in a medical co-operative association for many years, I have had the experience of people in our area who have to go 100 miles to London to obtain services. Mind you, it is not that far, considering the mileage one has to drive in the north to obtain services, but even travelling 100 miles and getting facilities to stay there while one has loved ones in the hospital is of great concern to me. I saw it personally when I was involved in the medical co-op before OHIP took over. I always thought there should be some method whereby things could be evened up.

I suppose it is similar to what we have in our constituency offices now. If somebody lives 10 miles from the constituency office, he can call toll free, whereas if somebody lives 100 miles, or

in our own case perhaps 45 or 50 miles away, it is hardly fair that he should have to pay for a long-distance call just to speak to his representative.

We have taken care of that through our constituency office funds. I myself have a very large riding and put that Zenith calling facility in on my own line a number of years ago because I felt it was only fair that if somebody had access to me toll free, it should also be available to people 100 or 50 miles away.

In effect, we are talking about the same thing here with regard to medical coverage. We also have our Ronald McDonald House where people can stay. I have a granddaughter who has had to come to Toronto for 14 years now on an average of once a year and sometimes stay in the hospital for two or three weeks. I often think how difficult this would be for someone who did not have facilities. We were so fortunate to be able to stay either at my own place or with some relative when I did not have an apartment at that time and stayed in a hotel.

But it is a very trying thing and very expensive, so I think it is our responsibility that health care facilities be made available and equalized throughout Ontario. I think it is very important and I want to be very supportive of this resolution today. I have relatives and in-laws who live up in Timmins and in different parts of northern Ontario and I know very well what they have gone through in the past. So I want to be on record as being fully supportive of this resolution.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would be glad to cede the time we have left to the member for Durham-York, provided I could have four or five minutes to wrap up the debate.

The Deputy Speaker: We will keep track of that.

Mr. Stevenson: Do I have 10 minutes? What time is left?

The Deputy Speaker: Three minutes.

Mr. Stevenson: I have three minutes. That is terrific.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly on the motion. I have no argument with the points that have been made, particularly by the representatives from the north regarding their desire for equal access to quality health care for any resident located anywhere in the province.

My question comes from the situation of whether this is the most efficient or most economical way to try to resolve the problem of quality health care in the north. Any one of us can

sympathize and empathize with the emotional stress and financial worries of trying to cope with a major illness in a family, particularly when on top of that are placed the concerns and anxieties of having to travel long distances to get the illness looked after. It can cause major trauma, not only for the person who is ill, but also for the family that must deal with that person and try to soothe that person in whatever manner it can.

Some of my colleagues, particularly the member for Cochrane North, has reviewed a number of the positive steps that have been taken in medicine in the north. I want to mention a few of them quickly. The underserved area program that started in 1969 has had a major impact and has won international recognition in getting physicians and dentists into more remote areas.

There have been many programs to try to get specialists into the areas. The province funds two university programs to assist in getting professionals to northern Ontario. The Ministry of Northern Affairs has a number of programs, a few of which have been mentioned, particularly in the telecommunications area.

I waited until after two o'clock to come here because I was trying to get some estimate from the Ministry of Health on the costs of this program. They are very preliminary figures. As I say, I almost did not get them because they were so late in coming. In 1982-83, there were 50,000 people in the province who had to travel outside their own regions of the province to get some type of health care. Many of them would have travelled in excess of 200 miles. The estimate of the Ministry of Health that I received expects this program would increase to in the order of \$50 million a year.

There are concerns from people in the north, particularly health care professionals, that the 200-mile limit would gradually be reduced to lower numbers because of political pressure. They feel that more and more people would want access to the program, and in the long run that would put a financial burden on medical funding and might slow down access to gains in quality health care in the north.

I support putting more of our money into continuing the development of health care in the north and not putting as much money into transportation. For that reason, as a matter of the means of getting quality health care into the north, I am going to oppose this resolution.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak directly to the member for Durham-York. I plead with him to reverse his vote. I plead with him

with every sense that I have, not merely for northerners but for other people in this province. The most efficient way to spend health care dollars is to provide transportation for those medically necessary services.

We know in the north that we will never have the full facilities of a Princess Margaret Hospital, although we do have fine cancer facilities in northern Ontario. We know we will never have the full facilities of a Hospital for Sick Children in the north, although we do have good paediatric services in many of our hospitals.

We are saying: "Do not let the people of northern Ontario, who are suffering these health problems, suffer them now. Let us not wait for 50 or 100 years when they are all dead to provide those services in the north. Let us take some action now."

Even if it costs \$50 million, that is less than one per cent of the total health care budget. That is one lousy per cent for equality, one lousy per cent for justice, one lousy per cent for health care for our children, for our elderly and for our middle-aged. Is it too much to ask for equality of health care in this great province? I say it is not.

I have deliberately kept this resolution limited. There are many other health priorities; I know that. There are many other things in northern Ontario we think we deserve and would love to have in health care, transportation, education and social services, but I say nothing is more important than life, nothing is more important than health.

I plead with all members not to vote on parochial or partisan lines, but to vote on the lines of humanity and for the life of human beings, to vote for good health for our kids. We ask that as a right; we do not ask that as a privilege.

I do not consider this to be subsidy for northerners or for anybody in the outreaches of this province. We pay the same taxes. The government rightly gives grants for the specialist services at Sick Kids' Hospital. We help to pay for those grants. Our kids deserve access to those services.

The question is a very simple one. In this Legislature, do we really believe in the principle of equality? Do we believe people should not die if they lack the money to come to Toronto for health care? Do we believe people should suffer prolonged bouts of illness that could be cured or alleviated because they or their parents do not have \$20,000 a year, in some cases, to pay for the transportation? Do we believe health care is a right for all the people of the entire province?

Northern Ontario is so huge in geographic area that one of the reasons I put in the 200-mile limit was to weed out travel that could be accomplished within a day. There are places in northern Ontario, in the riding of the member for Lake Nipigon or the member for Kenora, where people have to travel 200 miles within the area to get to a hospital, say in Thunder Bay. That should be covered.

I plead with every member of this Legislature, with all that is decent and humane and with all that says to us that health is a right and not a privilege, to vote unanimously for this resolution. Members of the government party should not let their cabinet veto it or dictate to them how they should vote on this very urgent matter.

The Deputy Speaker: I thank all members for their remarks in the debate, and for the courtesy of the member for Fort William. Time has expired.

EMPLOYEE SECURITY IN RETAIL BUSINESSES

Mr. Cureatz, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, moved resolution 17:

That in the opinion of this House, in order to give local municipalities power to pass bylaws related to employee security in retail businesses, the government should amend the Municipal Act to allow municipalities to pass bylaws to require retail businesses that are open to the public between 10 o'clock in the afternoon of any day and five o'clock in the forenoon of the following day to install such security devices as may be set out in the bylaw.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, I believe I have 20 minutes. I would like to try to reserve some time at the conclusion of the debate. It behooves me to mention that I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy), who worked along with me in the preparation of this ballot item.

I represent a good portion of the city of Oshawa, and in my riding of Durham East I am very happy to say we have not had the terrible experiences that have taken place in Mississauga. Notwithstanding that, I think we have to think ahead and look at what has happened in the Mississauga area. We should be thinking in terms of a debate such as we are having today in the assembly, to have comments from all members of the House and see what they think about this proposed resolution. If we do have support from the members of the assembly, we can proceed from that conclusion.

It was brought to my attention earlier by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), who is present, that members might be disappointed the resolution was not in the form of a bill. I acknowledge this fact. The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) also brought it to my attention. I had contemplated formulating my proposal in the form of a bill, but I wanted to allow all members to have some say and input first and to allow the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to evaluate the possible success of the resolution.

I do not personally have the extensive staff some of the ministerial people have to develop further—

Mr. Breagh: The legislative counsel will do it for nothing.

Mr. Cureatz: Would they? I am thinking in terms of investigative work, speaking to the various stores that are affected, such as 7-Eleven and Mac's, and the technical problems that might arise in terms of video cameras and still cameras; the kind of detailed work that is not available to private members such as myself and the member for Oshawa.

As a result, I decided to proceed with a resolution. In that light, I do have some specific comments I want to make. I want to ensure they get on the record, so I will continue with those comments and hope to have some time left at the conclusion of the debate.

There has been a strong reaction on the part of the public, the media and the police to recent acts of violence associated with convenience store robberies. An 18-year-old was killed while on duty at a Mac's Milk store, just a few miles from the Becker store where another 18-year-old was left paralysed by a bullet wound. The outrage expressed at these cases in Mississauga is, I feel, appropriate. It has done much to bring the issue of the security of employees in small retail operations to the forefront in Ontario.

The terrible consequences of violent crimes are especially vivid when they touch our own communities. Nevertheless, the problem of violent crime is not limited to one neighbourhood or one municipality in the province.

4:50 p.m.

As the representative of the riding of Durham East, a riding that has its share of convenience stores, I have a special interest in this issue. Today I am introducing for the consideration of the members a resolution which will, if adopted, assist our efforts to ensure the safety of employees in small retail establishments. I ask that this House, by supporting the resolution,

give municipalities the right to enact bylaws requiring additional security measures in convenience stores.

As responsible members of society, we are obligated to do our best to curb the apparent increase in violent crime around us. Criminal justice falls within the federal jurisdiction. I understand there is a debate going on at present with regard to amendments to the Criminal Code which address the violent offender. Having said this, I must also express my conviction that the problem of violence in our society is deserving of our action on many fronts.

I have introduced this resolution with the hope of accomplishing two things. First, I hope the debate on this resolution will provide a welcome opportunity for members to bring forward their thoughts and concerns on this issue. Recent events in Mississauga have brought with them a sense of urgency about establishing means to prevent similar tragedies. I do not want this sense of urgency to fade when our news media turn their attention elsewhere.

Second, and perhaps more important, it is my hope that this resolution will encourage concrete action to create a safer, more secure environment for employees of convenience stores and consequently reduce the likelihood that these stores will continue to be a target for violent robberies.

A study has been conducted by the Peel Regional Police, examining 1983 data on actual robbery occurrences in the area. The analysis compared convenience store robberies to robberies in general and several significant findings have emerged. I would like to review these findings, as they shed considerable light on the best means to approach worker safety in small retail establishments.

The number of robberies taking place between 10 p.m. and midnight is significantly higher in convenience store robberies than in the general category. Weapons are carried by culprits in a greater percentage of the incidents. Convenience store robbers are three times more likely to show up armed than thieves in general.

While firearms were involved about the same number of times, gunshot wounds were more than three times higher. Other offensive weapons, such as knives or blunt instruments, were far more likely to be used in convenience store robberies. Clearly, thieves are not afraid to use these weapons.

In convenience store robberies, recourse to violence always involved a weapon. Fully 20 per cent of convenience store robberies involved physical force with a weapon. The culprits in all

cases were male, usually in their teens or early 20s. The victims tended to be female and alone when the robberies occurred. Employees were alone in almost 70 per cent of robbery cases involving convenience stores.

As revealing as these findings are, perhaps the most startling figures concern the usual take in a convenience store robbery. The amount of money is smaller than robberies in general. In almost half the cases, the amount involved was less than \$100 and none involved more than \$1,000.

I think all members are aware that early store closings have been strongly voiced in some quarters as a solution to convenience store robberies. We often hear debate about how we can make convenience stores safe, framed solely in terms of hours of operation. In my mind, a ban on all-night stores is not the only strategy available to us by any means.

There are two recommendations contained in the Peel study, made on the basis of identified trends that are particularly relevant. These deal with time and staffing. The report stresses the assurance of the proper level of safety for workers, and I would like to take a moment to examine the reasons for this.

While more than half of the convenience store robberies take place between 4 p.m. and midnight, only 17 per cent occur between midnight and 6 a.m. Of the more than 200 milk store robberies in Metro Toronto since 1981, police could point to only three that happened between midnight and 6 a.m. Police say the most popular time for holdups is when stores are closing; in many cases, around 11 p.m.

The evidence suggests early store closings will not limit the bulk of this criminal activity. The report concludes early store closings would not be effective as a deterrent since the culprits would just show up earlier.

Closing stores earlier could have the effect of simply moving back the whole schedule of crime. This retreating stance could be taken to the extreme. To safeguard the stores completely, why not close them altogether? Clearly, this is not a solution worth considering.

I am pleased the member for Oshawa is here, because he was probably a member of the Oshawa city council at the time of the passing of bylaw 154-75, which stated:

"All retail food stores in the city of Oshawa are required to be closed on each day of the week, Monday to Friday both, inclusive, at the hour of 12 o'clock in the afternoon of each day and shall remain closed until the hour of five o'clock in the

forenoon of the next following day throughout the year." The city of Oshawa moved on this matter a number of years ago.

By the same token, from my investigation of municipalities across my own region of Durham outside the city of Oshawa, the municipalities of Newcastle, Ajax, Pickering, Whitby and Scugog have no such specific bylaw in relation to having convenience stores close during the hours roughly between midnight and five o'clock in the morning.

I would like to point out that this idea of closing stores between those hours has been debated in the Metropolitan Toronto area. I bring to the members' attention an article in the *Globe and Mail* of some three weeks ago, entitled, "Alternatives Seen to Enforced Closing of Overnight Stores." It said:

"Municipal politicians across Metro Toronto appear convinced there are better ways to curb crimes in 24-hour convenience stores than by ordering the stores to stay closed overnight.

"A committee of Etobicoke elected officials yesterday voted not to proceed with imposing a bylaw to force a midnight-to-dawn closing on convenience stores, and Etobicoke council is likely to endorse the move next week."

I think the move is not to have stores closed between the hours of midnight and five o'clock in the morning. In relation to this, I had the opportunity of contacting the police force in the region of Durham. I know the member for Oshawa will appreciate what I am about to say. When he was critic for the Solicitor General, from time to time I saw him speaking to Chief Jenkins. I am sure he was lobbying to try to find out the latest angle in terms of the Solicitor General's offices.

Notwithstanding that, it has been brought to my attention that in 1982 in the region of Durham there were 134 robberies, with 26 in convenience stores. In 1983, there were 100 robberies, with 18 in convenience stores. Interestingly enough, 80 per cent of all robberies occurred between 10 o'clock and 10:30 p.m.

The point is that closing down the stores in the late evening and early morning is not the route we should consider going.

Because robberies are generally carried out against female clerks working alone, the Peel study strongly recommends that at least two employees be on duty during the late night and early morning hours. The study also suggests that a minimum of two staff be on hand when the manager or store owner is not present or when a young part-time person is working. Young

people, the report suggests, should never be employed during night-time hours and never alone.

I bring that comment to the attention of the House. I am not convinced that having two people in a store is the way to go. We run into some practical problems right away. What happens if one person cannot show up? Does that mean the store automatically closes? Does the person in the store then get paid for the hours he or she might have worked, but did not work because the other person did not show up?

While there are practical difficulties with requiring that at least two people work in each late-night store, there is also the consideration that having two people behind the counter does not necessarily deter thieves.

I also feel the report contains a great deal of common sense in its comments on the importance of staff education and training, particularly regarding its recommendation that young people never be left to work alone during a night shift at a small retail operation.

For the few minutes I have left, let us look at the record of our milk stores in the province. Mac's Milk has 450 stores in the province and 700 across Canada; 500 of these are open for 24 hours. Robberies are down 23 per cent this year at Mac's Milk stores. It is worth pointing out that the young victim was the first homicide in 22 years of operation.

I have some other statistics on Becker's operation, but because of the time I will not quote them.

5 p.m.

There is a real need for stores with late-night hours. Widespread changes in our work patterns have meant that the average suburban community could have between 30 and 40 per cent of its wage earners working shifts. The old idea of a job as a nine-to-five affair no longer holds. Other areas of our lives, such as shopping patterns, also have to adjust.

We should bear in mind that we are not witnessing an epidemic of violent robberies of convenience stores. While incidents of violent crimes are on the increase—for example, bank robberies in Metro Toronto were up 58 per cent between 1982 and 1983—to treat the recent events in Mississauga as epidemic would be rash.

However, at the same time, we must be careful not to underestimate what is a serious social issue. Those who work in small retail establishments are in a vulnerable position and in my view that is not open to debate.

The issue of employee security against criminal activities is a critical one. The Employment Standards Act's primary purpose is to prevent the exploitation of workers, but it does not specifically concern safety. The Occupational Health and Safety Act deals with safety of workers, but is restricted to hazards created by the work places themselves.

Turning to other jurisdictions, we find no province, with the exception of Alberta, has legislation specifically aimed at employee security. Alberta prohibits employees under 18 years of age from working alone. This legislation apparently came about in response to the deaths of four minor employees in eight years.

I believe the resolution I have introduced will provide the appropriate instrument to combat the problem of violent robberies of convenience stores. My own conviction is that preventive security is the prudent route to take. In the prevailing situation, additional security measures for employees of late-night stores are clearly needed.

There is a wide range of highly sophisticated technology which can substantially reduce the risk to which employees in small retail operations are exposed. These security measures are readily available and are not beyond the means of retail operators. There is much that can be done to create a safe and secure working environment for employees in terms of store location, layout and appropriate advertising displays. The education and training of staff is also a responsibility that store owners should take seriously. With an adequate safety system in place, convenience stores will lose their attractiveness as targets of violent criminal activity.

I would like to limit my remarks to a more general issue for the moment. It seems that everywhere one turns these days there is evidence our society is experiencing an increase in violent crime. Why so much crime? Some social trends, such as weakening of family ties, increases in drug and alcohol abuse and high rates of youth unemployment may have an effect on our crime rate. The reasons for crime and its increase are the subject of much debate, and it is unlikely this debate will be finally resolved.

What we can be sure of is that we are seeing a change in our attitude towards violent crime. The public is becoming more aware of domestic violence issues and the destructive consequences of drinking and driving. As well, individuals are becoming more actively involved in the prevention of crime; that is, keeping our homes and businesses safe and secure.

We can see the situation of late-night store employees in our province deserves our positive attention. I have introduced this resolution with the hope of stimulating discussion and interest among my colleagues. We have a grave responsibility to the people of Ontario to prevent the repetition in our own communities of the tragedies that have occurred in Mississauga.

I would like to reserve the three minutes I have remaining for the conclusion of my resolution.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in the discussion of this resolution put forward by the member for Durham East, and I commend him on putting it forward. I only hope he has the support of his own colleagues. Looking at the number of bills or resolutions his colleagues have blocked in the last few weeks, or the ones they have opposed, it is quite a negative record. I just hope a few more people on his side will support him in this very worthwhile resolution.

Mr. Kerrio: They do not block blue bills.

Mr. Epp: Oh, just the other colours.

Irrespective of that, I do think this very important and serious subject needs to be discussed by the members of this Legislature. After the paralysis suffered by one of the milk store clerks and the deaths, or whatever the case might be, it is a subject that needs to be attacked, particularly by the office of the Solicitor General and by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. They have the enforcement problem. They have the problem of setting forth and enforcing the regulations under which the stores stay open in Ontario.

Some of the mayors in Metropolitan Toronto have referred to the measures Mississauga was trying to take in order to curb milk store hours as "a knee-jerk reaction." I know Mr. Godfrey referred to the action Mississauga took as "a knee-jerk reaction." Mr. Lastman indicated he did not think closing milk stores for a period of hours during the night was the proper approach to take.

I think I would agree with both of those gentlemen. I do not think we should have to close the stores nor should we overreact to this matter. Nevertheless, I think action has to be taken. The suggestion of the member for Durham East that security in stores should be tightened up and made more elaborate is one way to go.

One of the problems we have had in the past is that milk stores try to get the cheapest help they can and that means the youngest help they can. There are people who are 16, 17 or 18 years of age working in these stores, trying to earn a few extra dollars to pay their expenses. They often

come from poor families where they need every cent they can get to buy clothes, school supplies or whatever the case might be. The robbers who take advantage of them know this. They feel the immaturity of the clerks will help them to get away with it.

The data comparing the robberies of milk stores and banks in 1983 show there were about 101 milk store holdups and 249 bank holdups. The average take in milk stores was \$310 compared to \$1,200 in banks. These are interesting comparisons. In the case of a lone thief as opposed to more than one person, there was a lone thief in 85 per cent of milk store robberies compared with 95 per cent in banks. That is fairly comparable. In milk store holdups, 95 per cent of the robbers were under 25 while 75 per cent were under 25 in bank holdups. There was a weapon involved in 90 per cent of milk store holdups and only 38 per cent of bank holdups. Injuries occurred in under five per cent of milk store holdups and there were none in banks.

Regarding cases solved, and I think this is important, 25 per cent of milk store robberies were solved compared with 52 per cent of bank holdups. I do not think there was less evidence when milk stores were robbed. They should not be treated as less serious crimes. I do not think the people who were robbing milk stores were more sophisticated, yet only 25 per cent of milk store robberies were solved as opposed to 52 per cent in banks.

Perhaps part of the problem is the fact that law enforcement agencies have not taken milk store robberies as seriously as bank robberies, because of the amount of money involved or for other reasons, and have not tried to enforce the law as far as those areas are concerned.

In looking at milk stores, there is one other point I would like to raise. It has to do with the things convenience stores can do in order to prevent robberies. Some stores such as Mac's and 7-Eleven have gone into quite a bit of research. They have consulted the convicts who committed the crimes to find out what can be done to prevent crimes.

5:10 p.m.

In looking at some of the research that has been done, both 7-Eleven and Mac's have followed certain guidelines. They have their clerks greet all customers with pleasantries and so forth—in other words, disarming them psychologically—and they try to remain anonymous. They keep signs to a minimum. The cash register is always in plain view from inside and outside the store. They put up height markers so that store staff can

gauge the height of any robbers. It helps police and it is also a psychological deterrent.

Above all else, they do not keep much cash in the till. It is not worth a robber's time to hold up a store. Mac's and 7-Eleven set up safes in stores so that staff can make a deposit whenever there is more than a small amount of cash available. The safes are also cash dispensaries and staff can open them. When they do open them there is a time delay.

If there is any delay when robbers try to commit a robbery in a store and if they cannot get the money as quickly as they think they should be able to—often within about 90 seconds; if they plan on robbing a store that is about the average—it is found they will leave without the cash rather than wait around and run the risk that someone may come into the store.

I want to commend the member for Durham East for putting this forth. I think security devices are the way to go rather than having an extra clerk in the store, because that is a very expensive proposition and I am not sure it is the answer. Having electronic devices connected to the police station or some other law enforcement agency, such as security agencies, would be one way of at least discouraging robberies from taking place.

Certainly, in-house cameras that take pictures of the thief have proved to be very valuable for banks and would also prove valuable in the stores.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, we all share a sense of shock when we read about the tragic deaths or the maiming of young employees who are working in these stores. They are working solo and often late at night. We all agree there must be some method of preventing those tragedies.

We should recognize that in most cases the stores that operate at late hours or overnight are staffed by a single young teenager, mainly because the proprietors are not willing to be there at that hour and also because they can get the teenagers below the regular minimum wage for employees over 18. Therefore, if we continue to operate these kinds of stores after 10 o'clock at night, we will be putting this group of young people at very serious risk. We must see how we can protect them against that risk.

The member for Durham-East has suggested one possible way and, in the absence of any other way, I would support the installation of security devices. They are certainly better than nothing and they should be required wherever a store is operated by a single person at any time.

He dismisses too quickly the idea of limiting hours, however. If stores were closed by a provincial law that would require all stores in every municipality except for an emergency drug store to operate after hours, it would reduce the risk considerably. Leaving it to the municipalities to adopt local-option store closing bylaws does not result in that kind of restriction on operating during the very hazardous hours. We all know there are a number of conflicting interests when it comes to limiting store hours.

Under the Municipal Act, local governments do have the power to limit store hours between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m., but how many of them do it? Perhaps they do it for supermarkets to see there are only two night openings, or that there is a limited number of night openings. There is general agreement among the supermarkets that they rather like that kind of limitation. As far as all the other stores go, very few municipalities exercise their option to limit hours.

The reason is, as we know, there are three groups concerned. There are the retailers who want the right to operate at any time they choose. Their bottom line is, does it make money? There are the consumers who want convenience, but only a small minority could not have its needs served at other times. Then there are the employees, and I think we have to look at the quality of life for them. That is a very strong argument for limiting store hours. I do not think it is much of a quality of life to say that teenagers have the right to work between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. at great risk to their lives.

I think that was in the mind of the government when it brought in the Retail Business Holidays Act. It was the quality of life regarding Sunday openings and having one family day when most businesses were closed that was the countervailing argument for a compromise bill that allowed certain stores to be opened on Sundays but said the bulk of them, including supermarkets of more than 2,400 square feet, were to be closed.

We have to look at this bill in the light of its effect on existing variety stores. There are basically two kinds of variety stores: the ones operated by independents, by mom-and-pop families who share the operation of the store, and the ones operated by chains. This bill would favour the chains, which could afford to put in security devices, but the small mom-and-pop stores would not be able to add this extra cost, which would probably eliminate their profit. As a result, they would go under.

They are already threatened with going under by all the illegal Sunday openings that are going

on in this province. I have been in touch with the Ontario Korean Businessmen's Association and a number of stores in my riding operated by immigrant people, who, by operating convenience stores, are trying their best to maintain a business and not go on welfare. Both this kind of legislation and more Sunday openings would destroy their business. The whole idea of the Retail Business Holidays Act was that we keep convenience stores because we all benefit by them.

We have to look at that aspect. There would have to be, it seems to me, some method of equalizing the costs if they are going to put in security devices. Perhaps it could be made a condition of employment under the Employment Standards Act, but with some assistance to the convenience stores to make sure they are able to afford any security devices that are needed.

I would prefer to see substituted for this bill a uniform, province-wide, store-closing bylaw that would keep all those stores closed, any stores except emergency stores or emergency gas stations, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. That is the only fair way to do it. Otherwise, if this resolution is passed, the government is putting more unfair competition on the mom-and-pop stores and they will ultimately go out of business. I think we have to face up to that. I hope the member, if his motion passes, will bring in amendments when we get to the committee stage to provide some protection for those stores.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to share some thoughts on the resolution before us this afternoon. We in Mississauga were deeply touched by the very sad recent events, where we have had the deplorable acts of one young woman left paralysed, as members would know, and in another situation a young man of great promise snuffed out so very early in his life.

The question has been raised by those members from Mississauga, and certainly by our community, of whether or not this matter could be addressed by this Legislature and recommendations be made for the improvement of security, particularly in these convenience stores during the late hours, in order to bring the proper kind of protection to bear and to do right by the young people who are so clearly at risk in the late hours in these stores, where criminal acts can cause them to be prey to the types who brought about the two situations we had so sadly in our community.

I would share with members that in our municipality we did see a voluntary closing of the stores. Those of us who were involved with the issue did have an opportunity to see the effect on the community and to sample the opinions of people within the community at large.

Unlike the previous speaker, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), I really do not see uniform bylaws as the answer, with all due respect, across the whole of the province. As this resolution proposes, in those areas where there is need for the stores, it should be for the operators to make the argument for their need. Failing their ability to make this argument, when they are totally unnecessary and yet bring this kind of risk to the community and to the young people who work in these stores, then certainly the local municipalities should be the ones best able to identify whether their community needs those conveniences in those hours. If they do need them, then those stores would have the minimum requirements of safety for those young people who work there and are otherwise at risk.

It is fine for Mr. Lastman and others to speak for their communities and disagree with that opinion. To my mind, this is what autonomy, responsibility and accountability to one's electorate are all about. In our municipality there are very strong feelings, certainly in the case of the most recent death, that we have to question the necessity of this store to be open for convenience, because just one short block north of it there is another very similar store. When you study how convenient the store actually was and how much was sold from it, as we did, you really have to doubt whether all of the hazard this young person underwent was really at all necessary.

Since this last tragedy, we in Mississauga have had a study by community leaders, the convenience store operators and the chains as well as the so-called mom and pop people. There has been a debate and there has been disagreement; yet one conviction seems to be shared by all, namely, that where the minimum requirements of safety that have been demonstrated by the police in their input can be implemented in these stores where it is found necessary that they be open in these so-called convenient hours, nobody seems to want to deny those young people who are otherwise at risk those basic needs.

In fact, our Peel Regional Police, who worked with the Ontario Provincial Police and others as we had this review, clearly set out basic requirements they felt from their study needed to be implemented. Of course, this will be some-

thing for the municipalities under this resolution today to look at for their particular cases.

As they indicate, such things as locating in an area where pedestrian and vehicle traffic has a clear line of vision into the store just make common sense, I would think, to anybody who has looked at the issue. Avoiding sites at the rear of plazas is also something that seems to make common sense. As to the layout of counters and where cash registers are located and such things as having cameras and video equipment, we know from other applications of these units that they are preventive. They know that people otherwise case these stores, and these act as a preventive measure. Jewellery stores and others have found them to be highly effective.

Let us look at some of the recommendations. There are recommendations in there related to staffing which I would ask members to consider. There is strong opinion in my community that, where it is proposed there be late evening or night-time hours, two staff be present when the manager or the owner is not in the store, or if youths are employed part-time. This is a very clear recommendation made by the Peel Regional Police in its report and by others who have looked at it.

During the inquiry in my community, I had a considerable number of disagreements with certain operators, although on the whole I saw co-operation and a sincere desire to seek out the types of safety measures that could be implemented.

However, one of the chains said it was really opposed to all of these safety measures, be it protection for the operator in the form of some kind of shield which might come in to place at a certain hour or the cameras or some of the other things that were suggested. It tried to kid the inquiry that this only provoked the criminal mind, as it were, and would put the operator more at risk.

I do not think those of us who sat through the inquiry necessarily agreed with some of those arguments. We have had some lively debates in our community about what effective measures could be implemented by any individual community. What might be appropriate in downtown Toronto and what may be needed as a convenience may not be needed in the outskirts of Mississauga where there is access to expressways. It might be entirely different for a very remote store.

I know I have paid some attention to how convenient the stores are in the late hours. I have to think that anything we have not bought by 10

p.m. or 11 p.m. really cannot be terribly necessary, given that we do have drug stores and service stations so that we are not left without emergency outlets for certain things. We have hospital dispensaries and other things within our community.

It causes me to think that some of these conveniences are more in the nature of one chain trying to say to the other that it is more convenient. This is the reason for their 24-hour approach. That is certainly the case in our community. Therefore, this resolution proposes enabling legislation so an individual municipality with its own accountability can make appropriate decisions for its community.

The mover of the resolution mentioned that a considerable amount of this debate has to do with just plain law and order in our communities. He notes how the federal government is looking at a review of the Criminal Code and some of our basic law and order legislation, such as Bill C-19. The federal Minister of Justice is looking at a more balanced system of criminal justice. We all have thoughts about that which derive considerably from the tragedy of this last young life that was lost in Mississauga.

I would just urge all members to support the resolution. I, too, would have liked to have seen a bill and have had a draft of it. However, I was anxious to hear the debate and to have a chance to persuade the members to consider that, basically, we are talking about young people who at unusual hours are very much at risk.

There are many things that can be done by the operators to give them the basic security to which they are entitled. This can be considered in the kind of bill this resolution proposes and which some of us are clearly anxious to see come forward to this Legislature. I believe we have a responsibility and that local autonomy, rather than province-wide bylaws, is the correct route to go.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate. I look forward to hearing other members' comments.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution. In the first instance, as I consider this serious problem, any resolution that is going to be helpful, even in the short term, is to be welcomed. This resolution takes on the form of enabling legislation that would allow municipalities to address themselves to the installation of security devices. I am certainly in favour of enabling municipalities to put in legislation or bylaws that would help, but that is only a

short-term measure. My real concern about this obvious crime involvement is deeper, and I think it will take much more determination to resolve it.

The average citizen was told that the capital punishment issue was going to be resolved in such a way that criminals who caused death were put away, so there was no chance of them getting back into society and repeating that kind of damage. Such was not the case. It is abhorrent to me that some of the cruel involvements we have seen across this nation, and more particularly in Ontario, were crimes for which one would think the criminals should be put away with very little chance of any kind of parole. Yet we saw very recently where someone convicted of killing four women was out on the street with a credit card and having lunch with someone who was supposed to protect the citizens from such an event.

I accepted that. I am certainly not the kind of vindictive person who feels we have to take a life, but a promise was made. Yet, as some of these horror stories unfold before us, we see a case where a person gravely harmed someone else and, before the victim can recover a very limited function, the criminal is out on the street. I have a great feeling about our police officers when they respond to the acts I am suggesting many citizens commit.

In the September 25, 1983, *Toronto Star* there is a headline, "Police Fear Violent, Armed Robberies on Increase." The article says, "A teenaged girl is paralysed by a gunman's bullet, a variety store owner is recovering after his head was sliced open by a machete—just two of the latest victims of what police fear is a growing wave of violent robberies." Here is the point I am trying to make: "Light sentences, quick bail, easy parole—what have they got to lose? There doesn't seem to be a deterrent," says Metro Police Staff Superintendent Jack Webster."

I think that is very prevalent in many crimes. These that unfold before us in such huge numbers certainly should not make us accept that we have lost the battle in our society to protect small store owners and small entrepreneurs. It is not very easy to put any kind of real security into all small stores, some of which are borderline operations. When I talk about real security, I am talking about something that would have the clerks who are up very late protected in such a way that they could not be reached. When they might have to move about the store, that is practically impossible with people who may have come in with the single idea of holding them up.

I do not know if we might be able to ask some small operators to have two people on duty. In many instances the borderline operations do not carry a second person on staff. Many of the large stores that have night clerks stocking shelves, etc., can stay open with hardly any increase at all in staff except for a few cashiers. The small entrepreneur does not have that advantage.

I hope if this resolution passes and those kinds of surveillance tools are put into place, such as cameras, that there is widely accepted research done in training clerks as to how to conduct themselves in the circumstance of a robbery. They are going to accept the fact that they should protect themselves at all costs, that they should hand over the moneys, which is an accepted practice, and be in the position least likely to cause themselves bodily harm.

Having done all those things, having done everything we could possibly do for the small entrepreneur—and it has to be province-wide—some of the responsibility has to be taken here to give those people the research capability they would not necessarily have.

I would like to reinforce the position that relates to a deterrent. We must get into that with all crime. There must be a way to tell the person who is inclined to participate in criminal activities that the door is not going to swing open again for him quite so easily and he is going to have to pay the price. I mean that in a way that would uplift the dignity of the person who has been hurt. We have not been doing a good job in relation to the people who suffer the indignities, harm and sometimes lifelong results of crime, while the criminal has been let out.

When I talk about retribution, I cannot believe we could still have a society where some major crimes are committed and the person can hang on to his ill-gotten gains even though he is convicted of a crime.

When we get down to corner store robberies, to the things we are trying to accomplish here today to protect the small individual, we have to think in terms of retribution. If they have not committed bodily harm, retribution might be in the fashion of work to help small entrepreneurs to show them how difficult it is for people to earn a living.

It seems tragic when we think about Nizam Ali. In that instance, a grade 13 student had bought his mother a red rose to share with her the wonderful situation that he came home with straight A's on his exams. He was struck down by some individual who will probably never do anything meaningful in his whole existence, in

his whole lifetime. It appears to me we have a responsible role to play.

The young people I have described are generally people who have more motivation. It is a high-quality young person who is willing to go out and help this family, help himself further his education or help at home by taking on a job at night. It seems more unconscionable that they should be the ones who are threatened by the type of individual who is free to roam about at night and do those sorts of things.

When the member for Durham East is considering the aspects of the resolution he has related, I hope he will also take into account getting his government to suggest that we deal more harshly with those people in the future, that there will be some deterrent and that we will not accept losing the battle to the young hoods or criminals who roam the streets at night.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, it would be easy to pick apart this resolution as being rather inept and as not addressing itself to the major problem. It is not a bill that would become law; it is a resolution that has really no effect. It would be relatively simple to say it really will not help anybody and in the end, if it were successful and if it were possible to do anything by a resolution here on a Thursday afternoon, the net result would be different standards of safety for people working in these stores in different municipalities.

I worked for a long time with people who had learning disabilities, and I understand what the member for Durham East is trying to do here. He is trying in his own bumbling, inept way to address himself to a very serious problem. In fact, once one has examined it a bit, one would see it is a very complicated problem as well.

A number of things could be done that would help various portions of the problem without really getting at what I consider to be the major one. The major one is that this evening, between 11 and 12 o'clock, there is a very good chance—"a very bad chance," I suppose, is a better way to put it—that at some little convenience store outlet there will be some young person, working probably for minimum wage or less, who will be at considerable risk.

The problem is compounded by the fact that many of these outlets are in shopping plazas and at that time of night they are relatively isolated. There are no people around to monitor others' behaviour, to come to someone's assistance or just to make someone stay away. They are at considerable risk, and we know that.

For example, a little bit contrary to what the member said previously, in my own municipality we have had the same incidence of crime in that time period in that kind of situation as just about everybody else.

The difficulty is that when we examine the profiles that have been drawn about who commits this kind of crime, we know it is not a professional thief who is looking for a lot of money, because generally there is not much more than \$100 available; it tends to be much smaller amounts that are actually taken.

The person who commits this kind of crime is probably a young male, with or without a weapon of some sort, someone who is highly excited, someone who may have several other emotional and psychological problems. In other words, it is probably the most volatile situation one could find oneself in, a very dangerous piece of business. The fact that there have not been more serious injuries resulting from this type of crime is just good fortune rather than good planning.

When we move to correct it, we run into some complicating factors. First, in many communities the idea of a 24-hour operation, however impractical that might be from a business point of view, is becoming more and more attractive, particularly to the chains, essentially because the competition is doing it.

I am not convinced there is a lot of business out there, but I know that in shift-work towns, their version of "What do you do after work?" is different from mine. They also are forced to work hours that are not the normal business operating hours; so there probably is a market out there that needs some response, and I have no great difficulty with that.

One could say, "Why do you not just close them down between 11 and 12 o'clock?" I would suggest that although that is currently the prime hour, the prime hour would simply shift. So it is a very dangerous situation out there.

We could insist on cameras to monitor who enters the store, and that would help the police to try to apprehend someone accused of this kind of crime. We could go to American-type security schemes. My reading of the studies of that kind of experience indicate, that anything one might do inside the store probably makes the situation worse, probably aggravates an already volatile situation.

In the end, I think most police officers would say the safest thing is to give them whatever they want, let them get outside and let the police, who are professionals in this kind of thing, apprehend them.

That would probably lead me to believe that one simple thing that would be of great assistance in lowering the risk factor would be simply to install some device that would alert a local police force that a robbery was in progress there. It could be a simple warning device of that nature. The difficulty is that studies of the American experience show that can increase the risk factor; so we are caught in a very awkward situation.

A better way to approach this would be from the employee's point of view. From an economic point of view—and oddly enough, I think this was the case for a while—the police officer says: "This is really a pretty minor crime here. This is not a serious crime." The difficulty is that it is a volatile crime and people can be injured and can die from this kind of risk situation.

A better approach would be to take it from the point of view of the employee's safety. All of us would agree that losing \$50 out of a cash register is not a disaster, but if a young person is threatened, it can be disastrous. If a young person is injured for life, it can be a disaster. That would have been a preferable way to go with this concept.

It would have been better to put it into an Ontario law that for those stores and businesses that stayed open during those hours and put their employees at risk, the employees were guaranteed some safety measures as opposed to some security measures. None the less, that did not happen.

I intend to support the resolution because I think this is a problem that unfortunately is complicated and will most likely continue to dog us. There are more types of businesses staying open on a 24-hour basis. At many banks and trust companies there are 24-hour tellers now, so there are people with money in their hands at rather isolated spots. Thus we do need to address that problem, which I believe to be very serious and rather complicated. It is not quite as straightforward as many members would like to have it.

I commend the member for his initiative in at least putting the problem before the Legislature this afternoon. I wish we had a more constructive and comprehensive solution to the problem, but I am happy to support the resolution as it stands. I think it is a matter that will be before the Legislature again. There is a necessity to change some of our labour laws to see that young people working for minimum amounts of money are not put at great personal risk to have these convenience stores open.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, for the moment that remains, I would like to indicate my support—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): There is not sufficient time for the member for Mississauga South. There are three minutes remaining and they will be taken by the original speaker.

Mr. Kennedy: I just wanted to indicate my support of the resolution. I realize the sponsor has two or three minutes remaining, so I will turn the floor over to him.

I support what has been said and I support the resolution, particularly getting a little tougher with those who commit violent crimes.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, in the two and a half minutes left, I would like to review some of the comments made by those honourable members who have spoken to the resolution.

The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) indicated a total closing of stores between midnight and five in the morning is not necessarily the way to proceed. He pointed out that the security devices in banks at present seem to have been successful.

I appreciated the comments of the member for Beaches-Woodbine. She felt security devices would be one method of proceeding but indicated a total province-wide closing would be most appropriate. I again bring to her attention my remarks that between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of wage earners in the average suburban community could work on shifts. The whole idea of a nine-to-five job no longer holds. Other areas of our lives such as shopping patterns have to adjust as well. That is what I am indicating. Closing convenience stores totally is not necessarily the secure way of approaching the problem.

I appreciate the concerns of the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones). He indicated very aptly that after the incidents in Mississauga, there was a voluntary closing of stores. I think this was only a stopgap measure. We have to look at the long term.

He also indicated that some chains thought the implementation of any kind of devices would only enhance the possibility of crime. I agree with his comment that this is not necessarily so. We have to be thinking about the young people who are working those late hours. Some kind of technology to deter and monitor what is taking place in the store would be of benefit and would be a protection to them.

I always appreciate the comments of the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) in some form or fashion. He took a look at the global aspect. He was more concerned about the problems of the light sentences and parole board rulings, notwithstanding which he felt the

resolution would be appropriate on a short-term basis.

Last but not least, my colleague from the region of Durham, the member for Oshawa, started off with a whimper indicating he was not too happy about the resolution, but he ended with a bang by supporting the resolution. However, I was a little concerned and confused. He indicated there should be a guarantee of employee safety and not surveillance. In my humble opinion and in my bumbling way, it seems to me that surveillance of the store would mean safety for the employee.

5:50 p.m.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that an overwhelming majority of those who have spoken today indicated support for the resolution. I am concerned about the further details of investigations of technology. Notwithstanding that, we hope the resolution will be supported by the House. I would proceed by following up with a bill and its implementation by, I hope, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

5:56 p.m.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

The House divided on Mr. Foulds's motion of resolution 16, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Bernier, Birch, Bradley, Brandt, Breagh, Bryden, Cassidy, Cunningham, Cureatz, Di Santo, Eaton, Edighoffer, Elston, Eves, Foulds, Gordon, Haggerty, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Jones, Kerr, Kerrio, Kolyn, Lane;

Mancini, McCaffrey, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Newman, Philip, Piché, Pollock, Ramsay, Renwick, Riddell, Ruston, Samis, Scrivener, Swart, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Walker, Welch, Wells, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Dean, Gregory, Kennedy, MacQuarrie, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Robinson, Runciman, Sheppard, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Watson, Williams.

Ayes, 52; nays 17.

EMPLOYEE SECURITY IN RETAIL BUSINESSES

The Acting Speaker: Mr. Cureatz has moved resolution 17.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the remainder of this week and next.

Tonight we will do the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services, and when they are finished we will continue the adjourned debate on the reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

Tomorrow we will do second readings of Bill 36 and Bill 37 and committee of the whole on Bill 142.

On Monday, May 14, we will do the estimates of the Office of the Premier.

On Tuesday, May 15, we will have routine proceedings at 2 p.m., followed by a short recess until 4 p.m., at which time the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) will make his budget address. The House will not sit on the night of Tuesday, May 15.

On Wednesday, May 16, the usual three committees may meet.

On Thursday, May 17, budget replies will be made by the Treasury critic of the official opposition and the Treasury critic of the third party. In the evening we will have budget debate.

On Friday, May 18, we will continue the budget debate.

I might just indicate that we will begin Monday evening sittings effective May 28.

The House recessed at 6:02 p.m.

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 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
 Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
 Cureatz, S. L., (Durham East PC)
 Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
 Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
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